Ruby and Nisling Range Wildlife Meeting- November 8, 1995

Prepared for:

Ruby Range Sheep Steering Committee

by

Kluane First Nation
and the
Government of Yukon, Fish and Wildlife Branch

Notes:

1. The summary of this meeting is in 3 parts:

   a. Transcript of the 8 November workshop at Burwash, hosted by Kluane First Nation (pages 1 to 41)

   b. Summary notes from working groups (pages 42 to 49)

   c. Dall sheep observations by decade in the Kluane area (pages 50 to 62)

2. The Ruby Range Sheep Steering Committee was formed to recommend solutions to sheep concerns identified at this workshop. People wishing more detail on the discussions and recommendations formed by this group should contact:

   Mary Jane Johnson,Kluane First Nation, General Delivery, Burwash, Y0B 1V0,
   Bob Hayes, Government of Yukon Dept. of Renewable Resources, Box 5429, Haines Junction, Y0B 1L0), and,
   Keith Carreau (Ruby Range Outfitters, Box 610, Faro, Y0B 1K0).

3. **There is no detailed information on the distribution of mature male sheep in this report.**

Ruby & Nisling Range
Wildlife Meeting
November 8, 1995

Tape Transcription

Present:	Dennis Dickson	Will Jones
	Gerald Dickson	Michelle Edwards
	Jim Rear	Bob Hayes
	Frank Joe	Jean Carey
	Paul Nadasdy	Harry Smith
	Hugh Monaghan	Kevin MacLaughlin
	Gerald Brown	Mike Crawshay
	Douglas Dickson	Lorne LeRocque
	Dick Dickson	Bob Jickling
	Grace Chambers	Barney Smith
	Lena Johnson	Agnes Johnson
	Geraldine Pope	Grace Chambers
	Richie Johnson	Joe Johnson
	Tim Cant	Mary Jane Johnson
	Sheldon Tetreault	Dorothy Johnson

(Tape 1, Side 1, start)

tape counter: 035

Okay we will get the meeting started I would like to call on Lena Johnson to say the opening prayer.

Lena Johnson:
Thank -you Lord. Father we come before you. You are the Creator of all things on this Earth and Creator of all us in this world. We just thank-you for that Lord. Teach us how to work together. In a good way how to control and manage our game with your help without you we are nothing you said in your word. So we ask you for some help today that you may help us to do a good work and good friends as brothers and sisters. Lord you said to love your neighbours as yourself. In Jesus name. Amen.

Tim Cant
I would like to thank everybody for showing up here today welcome to Burwash. We have quite the agenda put forward by the number of people represented here of what they want covered. There are a lot of new faces in the crowd for everyone to know so what I'd like to do first off go around the room and if people could just say who their name is and who they represent. We can start off on this end here.

tape counter:051

Dennis Dickson, Kluane First Nation; Gerald Dickson, KFN; Jim Rear, Fish and Wildlife Management Board; Frank Joe, Haines Junction; Sheldon Teteault, Destruction Bay; Harry Smith, Champagne/Ashihik Renewable Resource Council; Kevin McLaughlin, Kluane National Park; Mike Crawshay, Chairman of Renewable Resource Council Haines Junction; Loren LaRocque, Fish and Wildlife Haines

Junction; Bob Jickling, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society; Will Jones, Yukon Conservation Society; Michelle Edwards, Environment Program DIA; Bob Hayes, Regional Biologist; Jean Carey, YTG Sheep Biologist; John Nadasdy, Anthropologist John Hopkins University; Hugh Monaghan, Director Fish and Wildlife here in the Yukon; Gerald Brown, Champagne/Ashihik; Douglas Dickson, Kluane First Nation; Grace Chambers, Kluane First Nation; Lena Johnson, Kluane First Nation; Geraldine Pope, Kluane First Nation Band Resource Officier; Richard Johnson, KFN; Joe Johnson, Kluane; Timothy Cant, Facilitor today.

Tim Cant:
I'll be facilitating this workshop today. Usually what we do is we set out a set of guidelines for a meeting like this.

(interjection)
Some people were missed.

I apologize.

Barney Smith, Fish and Wildlife Branch from Whitehorse; Mary Jane Johnson, Kluane First Nation.

Tim Cant:
Once again I apologize. Welcome both of you. Okay, usually in a meeting like this where we have a collection of different groups and interests people love to dive and say what they have to say so what we could do for a set of guidelines that we are looking at is basically that when someone is speaking please do not interrupt. If you put up your hand I'll recognize you and you will have your chance to speak. A big one today is that we have a lot on the agenda so not to speak at length, allow others to speak, not to walk out if you are angry and so on. Keep calm, have your chance to speak and you will feel a lot better. Those are just some of the guidelines, if anybody else would like to add any. If you have questions throughout the day we do have a mike, I'm not sure how far around we can pass it, pass it around, but if we could and say who you are because we are recording this as part of a project that we are working on.

I would like to go through the Agenda, I'm sure everbody has a copy and see if we can get the agenda accepted. We have gone through the Prayer and we are going to be asking both Hugh Monaghan and Chief Joe Johnson to do opening remarks. At 9:15 we are going to ask both the Kluane First Nation and the Champagne/Aishihik Elders and hunters to give a presentation. Basically what they are going to do is talk about the way the sheep population was. The way they saw it growing up and the way it is today, the changes they have documented throughout their lifetime in the Ruby Range and the Nisling Range areas. We have Barney Smith with a series of maps and he is going to try to document some of the knowledge that the Elders are going to share with you today and he set up a series of maps and he is going to try to date them. It's a way that YTG is going to try to document some of the Elders' knowledge

here. At 11:15 to 12:00 noon, we have YTG biological information, I think Jean Carey and Bob Hayes and then we are going to break for lunch at 12:00 - 1:00. We are going to try to stay on time with this agenda because following lunch we have three breakaway groups. Basically what we want to do is break this huge group here into three separate groups and we've got a number of questions on the back of your agenda here and it is broken down into Group 1, How do we work together? Group 2, What can each of us do to make sure there are wildlife for our children? and Group 3, How can we manage the human use in the area? So those groups are going to be broken up and they are going to go off and develop some answers and basically work within those questions. We will have a coffee break from 2:30 to 2:45 and then the three break away groups are going to continue until 3:15. At that point they will be asked to do a summary of recommendations. At 5:00, as I say we are looking at a long day, at 5:00 to 6:00 we are looking at an action plan.

There is one other area that I would like to add to the agenda which is, what happens with an action plan, we need to look at we need to develop a process to evaluate the results as well and maybe we could add that on to the last part of the agenda to "Develop Process to Evaluate Results".

All to often it could be left for a year or two before we look at setting some form of general time frame. Is that acceptable to everyone, does everyone understand the agenda. Any questions? Okay, so we will get on with the agenda then. Like I said earlier, two speakers that we'll be calling upon to do opening remarks will be both Chief Joe Johnson and Hugh Monaghan and I guess we will start with Chief Joe Johnson.

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Chief Joe Johnson:
Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Elders and guests, I'm glad that you are here today and you are welcome to our home country, it's a little cold out but I hope you enjoy yourself in your stay and I hope you have a safe trip home. Today we'll be discussing sheep in the Kluane area. The last two years I asked myself, "How did we get here?" You can't point your finger at anybody. But, we are here today. The wildlife in this area is the responsibility of YTG and Renewable Resource Department, to make sure that the numbers of everything are kept up. But, that didn't happen and the sheep are gone. All my years of guiding in this whole region from White River and to Rose Lake, and you are going to hear it from the Elders and the people that hunt in this country and the trappers, all these hunters are trappers that they can read the land better than anybody else I've known.

I asked one of the Elders what kind of game is plentiful this year but I can tell you that, we've got lots of squirrels, a whole mountain of squirrels. We got no rabbits, ptarmigan is coming back a little bit, grouse is still down low, our bulls in the bush population are low, the cow moose seem to be doing okay, gophers are all gone, we don't hunt gophers any more, the young people or the old people because we are trying to let it, bring the gophers

back up. They've been dropping since 1987, is when the numbers started dropping. There are no gophers now in Duke Meadow, very few, going down Below no gophers, go over to Cultus, very few, you go to Fourth of July, a few. These are the things people in my generation notice, they don't only notice wolves, coyotes. We notice ups and downs of any wild species out there because that's our farm. We look at that out there as a farm as a farmer would look after his cattle, his chicken, his sheep. Surely to God a farmer would know or a rancher if 10 of his cattle were killed even though he had 3 or 4 thousand. He would know that, the same with the wildlife.

We go out there and we sit down and drink coffee together, we share information. I might say gees, there is no moose up in my country and Mr. Joe from Kloo Lake will say holy there is sure lots down in there. There is just one pile up, unless you go up to Dixie Creek there is a lot of moose but no place else. So I know there is moose there but you know something is happening. I notice that about 10 - 12 years ago that the sheep were declining. I never notice it more than anything else since 1990-91. Our Elder here that used to go up Big Arm, what do you call it, Raft Creek. In the spring of the year that place use to just crawling with sheep. Danny Nolan that's where he got his wildlife. One of your biologists, from time to time talk to Mr. Nolan see how many sheep there were in that one bunch, I think over 350 sheep, that's just one bunch in that mountain that's not counting the rest. You know when I went back at 1990, in about the same time, end of March I think it was or the early part of April, I was checking the sheep population, I seen four on this side. One of the sheep I was talking about at Raft Creek Mountain. Lucky I spotted it, it was just going over the top. The rest of the mountains were bare. I said "Hey maybe I came a little to early". So the following year in 1991, this time I went down about the tenth of April, I said they should be there now. This time I saw four sheep on that mountain.

The fact that we are here today, it's happened, it's happened already. There is nothing we can do about it. We can learn from the past about what we are going to do for tomorrow. Our Elders who have houses up Brooks Arm, there's no more sheep in there. All the years that she lived in there she used to go up Mineral Creek and shoot sheep for herself. Today, she knows there is no sheep up there anyway so don't bother going up, neither does her kids.

We as human beings, I seen an article on David Suzuki last night, everything we touch, we destroy, we never ever did manage anything good as far as he could tell we never did. The simple reason I am standing here is development. Individual development, that's the only thing we are taught in the school system. There is no place in the school system that says hey save something for tomorrow. We are never taught that. By the time we could talk and walk we are taught you got to think of yourself, you got to develop yourself and you got to develop the people you are working for and it's just plough down everything that's in the way. Whether you destroy the environment, whether you're killing the game that stand in the way, no problem, as long as there is money available, get it. It's how we're taught.

You don't expect people, innocent people to change their mind, cause one little Indian sitting up here saying, 'hey, these are the things that are wrong'.

Native people are taught differently, they always say you got to look after, you got to save something for your grand kids tomorrow. You can hear that from university students who come out of school today. They also have that same concept. We've got to save something for tomorrow, not for themselves but for their grand kids and that concept does not fit into the modern world today.

You look at the buffalo, we wiped them out. You look at the cod, west coast, east coast at the beginning of the century, we managed to wipe them out too, and now on the west coast your talking about salmon. Will we wipe them out too? It's just like the time the fisherman are fighting for their resources, now there is a simple reason to understand. It doesn't take 20 years of schooling to understand that, all it takes is the common sense. My common sense tell me that the fishing on the west coast is going to go within ten years. Nobody's going to fish, but today we figure there is billions out there, that fish. The commercial fisherman are fighting over it, the native people are fighting over it, sports fisherman are fighting for it, just a Strait. Its hit rock bottom, I don't think they allow sports fisherman in there anymore, maybe they do allow them but I don't think they allow commercial fisherman that's how far down they are.

Right now with our sheep, our caribou, our moose, our wildlife population, maybe we're not populated but we have to change the way we do things. The rules of the game has to change, Ladies and Gentlemen, we can't continue on as though what was good yesterday is good for tomorrow and we are going to have to work together to achieve, hopefully we won't come to barriers as we grow and learn. The Land Claims Settlement is good for everybody, it is not only good for the Native people. The way those wildlife boards are going to be designed, regional councils, I see one sitting over there. They're developing but they just don't have that power, but that's going to come too. Who are we fighting, we're just fighting ourselves. Who's the government? A lot of time people point their finger. We are the government, all of us sitting in here, we elect those people that go to the office. We are the people and we got the power, we don't exercise it. You have people sitting in the office year long making decisions on what should be done about the land, there are a few people here even at my age who can take a sack of rice and a couple of snares and go out in the bush. I understand the bush, I go out for two weeks at a time.

Folks, we at this point in Yukon now that we have to take the bullet and bite it. The wildlife foundation is total closure in the Ruby Range. Don't think we are going to achieve that but if you look at the facts as related to my comments and my recommendation on that as far as I know the growth on sheep is 2%. Nobody told me anything else but I got that from Parks Canada when they did a ten year study. At its natural state without interference from

human beings. If we only kill that 2% ladies and gentlemen its just a matter of time. The Native people have made a deal through land claims to harvest, to do some harvesting in the national park. We still got the game sanctuary. The Champagne/Aishihik people, Kluane people, we're the same people, we are going to share our resources. We're still okay, we are still going to have sheep but, how about non-native people? What is their grandfathers' going to leave them on this side of the road twenty, thirty years from now, what is going to be there for them? You cannot change laws, you cannot bend for a few individual interest groups. You either go with it or you don't go with it. The simple reason, it's there, it's right there black and white in front of you. It's not maybe we are going to do this. The sheep don't fall out of the sky, they don't create on a piece of paper in somebody's office, they are born, raised out there in the wild. That's where they are born, that's where they die. They don't happen in somebody's office. It doesn't matter how many numbers you put on that piece of paper, out there is still the same. You've got to face that fact, this is not a fairytale. I didn't come here figuring that, I'm not that much educated, I'm very educated in the bush, I don't come here with a mean streak in me today thinking I'm going to change anything, I'm just trying to give you the facts. It's all of us responsibility to do something about it. Not just this interest group, people on the streets, that's their wildlife too. If you don't get involved in a situation like this, they just won't get it.

We rely on the wildlife for survival of my people, we depend heavily on wildlife, we respect them, we don't overkill them. We fought like hell to get a corridor in here, most of my people sitting around the table today respect those corridors. We don't need law, it just takes common sense. Tell them not to shoot caribou, they don't shoot caribou anymore. We don't say up here the band council has got to make it law so that we don't hunt. You just tell the people here's what the facts are: you keep hunting your not going to have that resource anymore. It's simple to understand. You don't need to be too educated to understand that. I'm going to speak more later. I spoke more than I should have but, I think the frustration, as I have said before I came here, we're all in the same boat, the people that hunt sheep, we're all in the same boat. You can't point your finger at anyone. We're here today, that's what's happening today. We can't wish that the sheep is going to drop out of of the sky fill those mountains again. No, you can't say well if we do this, you know, if we kill a few here it's going to pop up there. Ladies and Gentlemen, we either clean up by letting the hunting continue or put a total closure on it. We've got two choices, total closure or continue hunting, then you really goy to look at it because the population growth is going to be very, very slow. It didn't pop back up in Denali National Park or the top of the world park down there. It didn't pop up to 15,000 yet, 12 - 15,000. Since it became a game sanctuary it stabilized at 2500 to 3000 sheep. At which it has stayed at today, at the last count it was still 2,700 to 2,800 sheep in the Denali National Park where they had 12 - 15,000 sheep, when it first became over from the big game guide and outfitting. So when you look at that and you put the two together say how come it never popped back up to at least 10,000 - 8,000.

This range we are talking about back here at one time I bet they had 12,000 sheep. I'm not lying to you. You hear comments today where they seen 300, up the White River one time we counted up to 300 and lost count they were inter mixed so much, in one bunch. I seen rams up to 40, I never seen 50 but I've seen 45 rams together. Some our Elders can tell you they seen more rams in one bunch. I just have the background information from my hunting through the country and when I go back today I only see the mountains are bare, definitely something has to be done. Thank you very much

Tim Cant:
Okay thank you very much Chief Joe Johnson, the next speaker that I'm going to call on is Hugh Monaghan, Director, Head of Fish and Wildlife.

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Hugh Monaghan:
Thank you Tim and thank you to the Kluane Tribal Council for hosting us here today. It's nice to be here and I'm looking forward to a long but productive day. Chief Johnson indicated that we are doing our business in a different way and we are. With the bringing on of claims, we have renewable resource councils, we have one here today, we have a fish and wildlife management board, we have a rep here today from that. So, in these areas where there's claims we've settled, we clearly have more structured ways of doing business to vie for public involvement and grass roots involvement at the community level as well as the territorial level. That system of governing fish and wildlife management is just beginning, it's an experiment that all of us are convinced that in the long haul it will produce far more effective management system than now. As we talked about last night there are some things that government can do in managing fish and wildlife populations, but in fact much of the continuity, I believe, will come from the communities themselves.

Also, Chief Johnson mentioned responsibility is spread as is accountability. There's often been a sense in the past that if YTG has responsibility for fish and wildlife management that is highly centralized and has been largely Whitehorse based for the last 20 years. That is changing, that base is shifting out to the communities and we are attempting also to move some of our staff out into the communities on the technical side so that we can also have resources out there to work directly with these renewable resource councils, which Mike and I were talking about briefly, is what we think is the more effective way to deliver a program and it is also more responsible. Our staff also then become advocates of community perspectives. I think that's very important. However as we work together as Chief Johnson mentioned, it isn't just YTG's responsibility anymore. YTG is the territorial government but there are First Nation governments in the communities, there are also other agencies such as Parks Canada, there's special interest in the communities and I think as a team if we can continue to develop this relationship and work together, we are going to end up with a far more effective system than we had in the past and I think sitting around the table here, it is round, is indictive of that, although ultimately

the accountability will come down in areas where there is a claims to Ministerial responsibility and the Chief's responsibility with his council. There is clearly a willingness to share that responsibility and even in areas where there are not claims settled such as here, we are here as a team trying to work towards our defining what the problems are here and how to overcome them. So I think the mood and the opportunity for working on an issue like this in Burwash is very significant and different than it was ten years ago or even five years or maybe even three years ago. So I think we do have a real opportunity here to work together, not just focusing on single problems as we are today, but talking about what are the general priorities and concerns for fish and wildlife management as an example in this area.

What are the other priorities we should be working on as well. Because the sheep problem often doesn't just relate to sheep. It may relate to access management, it may relate to forest management, it may relate to a whole range of issues and we shouldn't take one issue in isolation of the others. That's going to take fairly expansive thinking and open minds in terms of how we ought to be moving forward to change to provide the guarantees that Chief Johnson referred, for his children and other children and grandchildren.

Having said that there is also another shift that I think can occur in this process, we will be listening to the Elders, people like Grace Chambers, and others who have many, many decades of experience in this area and I think the challenge that will lie before us in the future is not only to keep our own mind open with regard to decisions but also the interpretation and the understanding of the information that comes forward. How do we match long standing local knowledge and perspectives, in some cases spanning 50 years or more with some of the technical information that we also are gathering so that we can combine these perspectives to help us make effective decisions and there is a real challenge. There is a lot of experience with that and that's something that we've got to work on. To give you an example in, I come from a field which is in science very recent. Fish and wildlife management, fisheries has been around for a while longer, occasionally put a lot of weight on the science we have in wildlife management but frankly in the main that science is only about 20 year old. We've got an awful lot to learn, so in this area as we talk about sheep population perspectives, geneological information that goes back 20 years which is a lot in the science of wildlife management. However I suspect that we will hear from Grace and some others is 40 years and 50 years and the comments of Elders before that. So how we combine this information is something that I agree we have to work at.

Also it brings another question up and that is what is our time frame. Agnes last night, I found really interesting to hear, was talking about cycles in rabbits being 9 and 10 years and she was speculating on, are there longer term cycles on big game populations that are 80, 90 or 100 years, so where you hit that cycle with your perspective or with your experience gives you a perspective that might be different than another person's. If you saw 140 caribou on a hill as opposed to 10, it might also have a bearing somewhere

along that natural cycle say 80, 90 or 100 years so this is another complexity that some of us don't understand and are trying to grasp and wrestle with.

So that suggests to me that an important function we have here is to share information with an open perspective without being defensive, occassionally we can be defensive with our technical information and it is easier on all of us to say okay this is what we have seen now lets put that and mix and match and try to figure out what the devil to make of it and try to keep an open perspective on what it is we are seeing. I would find it difficult to draw conclusions with regard to our problem here today until I have heard all that information and ruminated on it and thought it through and so that would be my perspective as I appear or my background as I hear perspectives and information that are brought forward. As we move forward I think sharing information will help us to find what the problem and problems are.

A low number in population is often indicative of a range of problems out there rather than one thing that we can put our finger on. Chief Johnson, I think, also had an insightful comment with regard to that and that is that if we keep on a relatively even keel looking at the problems and information it makes it easier to focus on the solutions in a less defensive fashion. And, as I hear pointing the finger is not the exercise here of saying who has been the problem in the past or personalities. Those aren't going to help us move forward. We can move forward more easily if we are not defensive about hearing the information that is coming before us and I think there is a challenge that people going to have to try and stay with.

With regard to accountability, as we define the problem and some solutions, I would suspect implementing those solutions will occur in different time frames. There are some things we can do quickly and there are some things that are going to take longer to do because they cost money or they involved people in agencies that aren't here and we have to bring them on side too. But if we have a broad picture of what the problem is and what the solutions are we can then present those in other forms, like the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and perhaps with the land managers and others saying, over all this is our game plan here's how you can contribute and I think we'll find, as Chief Johnson talked about, the road corridor, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board for example in response to a request of Kluane Tribal Council did close the corridor to non-native hunting. The First Nation had the responsibility which it has lived up to thoroughly in convincing its members not to hunt and there has been discussion with other First Nations trying to have them not hunt in the corridor. So that was a smaller example I think of okay here's the solutions now we all have a stake and responsibility to implement them.

It's not just YTG, it's not just the First Nation, there are a range of actors out there. This also infringed on the Renewable Resource Council in Haines Junction and it'll have to throw this into their mix of large problems and issues they are already dealing with. One of which we spoke of last

night which is Aishihik program, which is not unrelated to this, there are connections.

And, the last thing that I will comment on is that although we should have patience, we should have persistence in pushing all those solutions forward as a team, and I think we should produce a team out of this meeting today that oversees making sure those solutions get advanced to the right places at the right time. Because without that continuity, I would certainly like to make that a strong contact between Chief Johnson and others here to make sure we are getting those solutions out there and that we are moving forward with them and as Tim talked about the last agenda item we check on our progress, we check on how we are doing. The last element of that is is that there is something here that has changed.

There is often the concern that government will take an idea and then not act on it, rightly or wrongly. There is an accountability now that is being built in through the councils and the boards whereby when they make a recommendation, the Minister whoever he happens to be is obliged to respond and either and then make a clear decision, yes he is going to implement that recommendation or no he won't without further consideration and getting back to the council. But a clear statement of yes or no cannot be escaped in the new system of the councils and boards. That is a major difference in that something that is nearly unparallel in most other jurisdictions in Canada. So there is accountability there and it then falls upon us to make sure with sober reflection we come forward with a really good solid set of recommendations, some today, and some will be developed beyond today. They"ll be a complete package to deal with the problems of what we can agree upon here.

Sorry a bit long winded but it is something that I feel very strongly about and I think this is really an excellent opportunity to move forward in a positive way and I would encourage us to remember not just today but beyond today but we ought to be a team about working on this and as we deal with others including the media we ought to bear in mind the interests of others that are around the table that are our partners and are going to have to work together in the future. Thank you and again thanks to Kluane Tribal Council for hosting this.

Tim Cant:
Okay thanks Hugh and I guess we move on to the next agenda item. I guess recognizing both opening speakers remarks is basically building blocks of where we want to go today and it seems to be acknowledgement there is a problem, there has been a decline. Our next speakers are the Elders from around this area that we are talking about which is Champagne/Aishihik and Kluane First Nation. We are going to call upon them to basically talk about what they have seen throughout their time on the land and the changes and of where it is today and if I could ask the Elders name, can we get Elders and speakers, there are some speakers that may not be Elders here, I guess they are all Elders. Basically what Barney is looking for too is time frames and

whereabouts on the sheep so he could put this on maps.

(Tape 1, Side 1, end)

(Tape 1, Side 2, start)

Tim Cant con't:
And, explain some of the history of where the sheep was and this is the biologist here. So Mr. Frank Joe if we could ask you to start off, some of your recollections of your memories of where the sheep were. This is not Karoeke, Frank.

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Frank Joe:
I can't say to much just talk about the change in the sheep in the last few years. I been through the country, all this country. I know this place this place like the back of my hand. First I went to work with Davis and, I use to work with different outfitter and I worked with Grace's brother called Austin, Bobby Austin, back there he drowned and his wife run outfit for him. I ran the outfit for his wife till she sold out in November to Len Burrad in 1969.

In 1955 everywhere you turn your head you seen a sheep through that McKelly Creek and Marshall Creek and caribou down at Ruby Range. They use to come right down the Ruby, down the ridges there to Ruby Lake, from Ruby Lake back towards the timber but they never went on the flats. Since they started mining in there can't (?) and the caribou herds are kind to getting flat. And I was doing a trail ride, taking kids on a camping trip, back to Kloo Lake to Ashihik and back. The last trip I made, I didn't see no caribou tracks when we came down Ruby Lake. Just a few of them in the back.

And, the sheep the same. I rode with my cousin a couple year ago back with Harry Smith, we took kids hunting. We only saw seven (7) rams at the head of Ruby Creek. I went hunting last fall and never seen anything. Through this valley here there use to be sixty(60), seventy(70), eighty(80) sheep every field there, now you don't see nothing back through there.

What is wrong with the sheep there is they're getting run out. Anytime he goes down to Vancouver he get a bunch of young guys, young rookies, and they just take the first sheep that come along. That's what happened. And they can't find a big sheep unless (?) (?) Last time I went out on hunting trip, forty-two(42) inch sheep you know, better than nothing for your hunter. Because he's gotta, he looks at it first, you don't just take anything. Some guys in Haines Junction they go out head of Marshall Creek a couple years, they got a thirty(39), forty-one(41) inch sheep. Anyone else hunt around there, take hunters there, keep on taking them, keep on hunting them. Those sheep there are going to be nothing left there, like Joe-Joe says. There is hardly any there now.

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I rode and worked with Joe-Joe last summer from Cultus Bay to Fourth of July and back there. We never seen no caribou tracks and saw two moose, one cow and calf, and fourteen(14) sheep. Twelve(12) in one bunch and two in Synder Creek, going towards Ruby - Fourth of July. No caribou tracks all the way around. (?)(?) I know that. and the moose there, there were two calves around there, seen the tracks I never seen them, just seen the tracks. I mean I didn't go out much there. I didn't pay no attention when I go out horse back riding, kids with me.

I do look at the sheep, when I go up the valley, lots of time I never see any. I cover lots of country, I never see nothing. Just what we seen last year, is what I seen in up the Ruby. Head of Marshall Creek, I never seen no sheep there. My cousin went in there with Junior Moose, he saw two rams. Shot at them, missed, couldn't get one to far. Where I went myself I never seen any. People say they're all around, with the plane they seen lots of sheep. When I was there I look around, I look pretty good around there. I'm use to looking for the game, I'm trained for that. Can spot a sheep or bear anything, moose, caribou anywhere in the bushes, can spot it from here to across the lake.

Sheep, I never seen any. All gone on some ridges. After they make year rounds for some reason the sheep are gone. Can't tell what's happening to them killing off or dying off, they moved out? Can't figure what's happening. But, if people don't believe me, I still got horses down there, I'm a horse trail guide and we'll ride, you'll see there are no sheep around there. That's it for where the sheep are at.

Tim Cant:
Thanks Frank. The next speaker we're going to call on is Mr. Dennis Dickson.

tape counter:724

Dennis Dickson:
When I was a young fella I use to work for my cousin here outfitting and that was in the Burwash area, across the lake, Joe Jacquot. And, use to hunt sheep around behind Little Arm. In them days, in the early sixties we use to go up there and no problem to see fifty(50), sixty(60), seventy(70) sheep in one bunch.

Use to go to Bridge Creek and use to hunt right out of Big Arm. We'd go to Bridge Creek, it would take us a day to ride in there, and Dickie was guiding there and I was a horse wrangler. See the Elders are smart, cause the young guys did all the work. We had to chase the sheep to the hunter and guide, they sat on the ridge and we did all the running. It was lots of fun through, we figured it was fun and we got a twenty dollar tip, twenty dollars in them days was lots of money. So, we'd ride through to Big Arm to the head of Bridge Creek, camp there. Next day we'd go out hunting and get your sheep and the next day we would be back.

After that I use to hunt for myself, go up the Little Arm with my Aunt Grace. Go up there see sheep, rams and ewes no problem, Just up the Little Arm. We'd go up there with her pickup to her cabin and then I'd go on foot, go hunting in one day and shoot sheep for your use. The biggest gun I ever had was a 30-30 it was no problem, just went there and bang. Now, people hunt with 300 magnums and you got to shoot a half a mile away. Well, first come first serve, you didn't care whether it's a big ram in a bunch, you need the meat, you know. We'd see fifty(50), sixty(60) in a bunch.

Now I trap through that area. I travel through there. Last winter I took my glasses with me, as I go through I'd stop and check. You see the trails where they've been travelling down to the licks and I never seen one track all through the Little Arm area, not one track. Well maybe Big Arm, up the Talbot Arm. I use to hunt there in the early sixties, we use to haul food up there for the hunting party for Joe Jacquot by boat. I use to come to Burwash, get a load of groceries and spent quite a bit of time travelling back and forth. Alot of time I'd come through there early in the morning because of the wind, you'd have to be here at four o'clock in the morning, the wind would die down so you'd get across the lake. Alot of times I'd come by Raft Creek and the sheep would be right there, end of the gully, you could shoot them right there from the boat, right there at the shore. They'd come down to these licks. Now you go up there, you don't see nothing, you don't see no sheep. If you so see sheep they're up on top the mountain, one or two that's about it. The sheep are fading out. That's about all I have to say.

Mike Crawshey:
Do you think that there's more, since the sixties, that there's being, were there more people going out there doing subsatnce hunting, like there's more access for everyone?

Dennis Dickson:
Well, in the sixties they didn't have, see people didn't have no planes or road hunters didn't go that far. They all kind of took a boat and go uo there the Arm, you know. Not right now there you got four wheelers and you got access to say Cultus road and on in. If you had to hunt in them days you had to hunt on foot or horses.

Mike Crawshey:
Well, it's just that there are more people hunting since then?

Dennis Dickson:
There is more but, not in this area. People here know there's no more sheep so nobody'd going to hunt for them.

Mike Crawshey:
No, but I mean since the sixties, there is just a whole lot more hunting pressure that's occurred on those same areas of hunting?

Dennis Dickson:

Yes, there's a whole lot. See the outfitter never took out much, see they huh, the hunters in them days, see in them days they'd book a thirty day hunt. It'd take thirty days to get their game but, now a days they book up a ten day hunt because they got easy access. They fly them in there and band, they shoot the sheep and they are gone. It's a money making venture, the more hunters they take in the more money they make, the more they'll shoot.

Barney Smith:
Could someone point out where Little Arm is and Bridge Creek?

Joe Johnson:
It's Mineral Creek, Bridge Creek someone thought to change the name to MIneral Creek.

MJ Johnson:
Little Arm is Brooks Arm. This is Talbot Creek in here and this is Bridge Creek. There's a natural valley that runs from Little Arm to Big Arm or Talbot Arm.

Dennis Dickson:
That's all I have to say.

Tim Cant:
Thanks Dennis. I want to apologize for the buzzing in the speakers. We bought that little white box over there, that was suppose to counter the problem or fix it. But it's due to the electrical waves from the generators in Destruction Bay, can't seem to, this building can't seem to cut that buzzing back. We have to bear with it. The next speaker on the list is respected Elder Grace Dickson and I'll just turn the mike over to her.

tape counter:805
Grace Chambers:
Well, I'm Grace Chambers and I don't have very much to say because it's been years since I've been up in that area. I've been all through there, everywhere. On horses and planes and everything else. But, it's like the Chief said, there's hardly any sheep anywhere around there. So, like I said I haven't been up there for years now, but I do have cabins and had a trapline for years and years and years. I've been all through that area clean down to Tincup and all over. In fact in 1958 I had my trapline for already eighteen(18) years, but I've been through the whole area. I had been cooking for hunters from Europe, that were coming out there, that's when Bill Brewster was our horse wrangler at that time. That's quite a few years ago, must have been near forty(40) years ago. But, I've been through that area and I noticed that everywhere there is no sheep and I think that most of those people have airplanes and they spot the game and that. I know that Little Arm I'd see sheep there, a plane would go over and the next morning there'd be horses there. I've live there for years and years, ever since we were little. I've got cabins in there and been all through the area,

everywhere. Although I haven't been to much over in the Nisling area, I have been down river. Also up the Donjek and been through the area, and up the Donjek there are piles and piles of sheep but, the wolves have been getting at them. There's to many wolves up there. Coyotes, wolves, eagles and everything else are getting lambs. Plus people hunting and stuff in there. I haven't been up there a few years now so I don't know what's going on. I don't have that much to say that I haven't already said it. Flying in hunters is what's doing all that, I think. Get a bunch of people in there and they're back in two, three days. I know that we were coming out of there one time, we were up at Jessie Lake, there were three hunters there, they had three sheep. Way out there they're out hunting. So, that's the thing about this airplane business, no safe spots, cause everything is spotted. Little Arm use to have loads of sheep, now there's nothing, down by my cabins anyway. John Ostashek says they're worth $5,000.00 to me, I says they're worth a little bit to me too, because they go in my deep freeze too. I don't have much more to say.

(interjection)
Back in the fifties Grace, do you remember what type of numbers that would be in the mountains?

There was sheep everywhere.

(interjection)
Through the top of Little Arm?

Little Arm all over there right down to the lower cabin. See there was a sheep lick there and they'd come down on that mountain. Now you don't see nothing there, not even a fresh track up in that area, nowhere. We use just go there and get our meat and come home, that was it. Now you can't, there's nothing.
(interjection)Would it be...

...they would run over on this side and then essentially go back, then they'd go around Tincup, in those high mountains there, clean on up towards the Nisling. There's a place that they call Ward Mounatin.

(interjection)
Yes, Ward Mountain.

Ptarmigan Heart and that. That was really a good little spot in there. I know that Joe Jacquot, I use to cook with him for quite a while, that's where he use to go.

(interjection)
Do you remember when you started to notice a decline?

Well, you see, Joe Jacquot's hunters never use to hunt in Little Arm. They hunted way at the back and all through there. John Ostashek has a cabin

built there, and they'd be flying in and out of there steady. I know that they'd be using walkie talkies, flying over the mountains and talking to guys on the horses, you know what can you do? Round it up to that airplane business, it's got a lot to do with it. That's about all I have to say.

(interjection)
When did you say the decline began, Grace? The decline in animals, when did it start, when did you notice them not so many?

After Joe Jacquot sold his outfit. Joe never use to hunt in this area at all, what so ever. Down Little Arm through that way, he did for moose. It was after he sold it. He sold it to Phil Temple and then Phil Temple sold it to John Osteshek. But Phil, he didn't go very far, he killed lots of animals up in there.

Joe Johnson:
In the seventies, when I worked for John Ostashek, there weren't much. Cause we went down to Ward Mountain, we use to go by, past the camp there use to call it(?)

Grace Chambers:
That use to be a good place there, that Ward Mountain. There use to alot of sheep in there.

Joe Johnson:
We saw seventeen in one bunch, another group of twelve, coming around (?) road, seen eight more no big ones in there, so we by passed that one too. We went up on that ridge, we saw nineteen more. We saw three good ones in that one bunch, we came back, got that one in that twelve bunch.

(interjection)
What year was that, Joe?

Seventy-one. You could by pass a bunch of rams, cause they're not big enough. Because the guides compete against each other too.

Grace Chambers:
You see quite a few way out, you never bothered them, take one or two is enough. They're all over, everwhere. They use to come down in the evenings and back up every morning, in the high spots, especially the ewes and lambs, big old rams.

Joe Johnson:
Remember between Rhyolite and Dwarf Birch? In the two mountains there?

Grace Chambers:
That Bridge Creek(Mineral Creek) use to be loaded with them, loaded with sheep all over. Now, you don't see nothing there, nothing.

(interjection)
There's a lick right in the end there too.

Yes, that lick right between there, some mornings you get up and see sheep all over there. There's a big road in that area there.

(interjection)
Me and Buck Dickson use to go hunting down there, that's where we shot a (?) where the sheep were fighting. "Yah, those crazy old buggers, you're old enough to know better".

Tim Cant:
Thanks Grace. Mr. Dickie Dickson sitting right beside you, staying mighty quiet here today. May you give him the mike and we'll hear what he has to say. You can just share some of your knowledge of, Dickie, of the sightings of the sheep in diffferent areas.

tape counter:898
Dickie Dickson:
I guided one time for Dick, thirty-seven years ago. Went up to Boulder Creek, White River area and counted one hundred and fifty(150) rams in one basin, Boulder Creek. Was looking all over, my hunter wanted forty inch ram. There weren't any forties there so went over to (?) Mountain, counted fifty rams there, got one out of there, wasn't forty, thirty-eight. The next trip I went back to Boulder Creek and there were only two rams there, the rest went over to the Alaska side, so we got one of those, got a ram. I guided for Joe Jacquot across the lake here, and we were finished on the hunts. We came over the mountains, we needed one more sheep, to Little Arm we rode. There were seven rams so we got one out of there.

(interjection)
What year was that, Dickie?

Must have been thirty years ago, yah it was thirty years ago. So they go one ram out of there, we came back to here with the boat. There were three hunters with Bill Brewster, never got a ram up Donjek way. So, had to take them out, had to bring some more horses over there. Same sheep were still there, so got two rams out of that. We came back here first of November, rode. Now you don't see any rams there. You don't see any sheep, around there. I guided for Belle Desroiers, when I first started. We didn't see one band of sheep. The hunter didn't want sheep. He wanted caribou, moose, that's what we got, out for forty days. Guided for Johnny Musko, we see sheep there all the time, got our sheep there the first day.

(interjection)
Cultus,hey?

Yes. We'd see sheep around there all the time.

(interjection)
That would be back when?

Oh back, twenty-five, thirty years ago.

(interjection)
That's in the Cultus area? How many would you see around the Cultus Bluffs?

We'd see fifteen, twenty to a bunch, in a bunch. Once we went up there we got a good thirty-eight. So we sheep hunted over there in one day. Rode right up to it.

(interjection)
Did you hunt much in the Ruby Range area, back behind the Cultus Bluffs?

I hunted in the Ruby Range but, I hunted for Alex Davis. Freddy Brown is the only one living there now. Frank Isaac, Freddy Jamison were on that trip. We were looking out a scope right from camp, we could see two coyotes, killed a lamb. They cornered it and killed it, like that.

(interjection)
When's that?

That's quite awhile too. Thirty-two, thirty-three years ago.

(interjection)
What type of numbers of sheep would be in that area?

Right there, there was only two ewes and one ram. We got the ram. We were looking at it with a scope, spotting scope. First time we ever saw a coyote take a lamb.

(interjection)
Are there any other areas you use to hunt quite a bit or noticed alot of sheep?

Alaska, I guided there. There wasn't alot of sheep there, seen one band of seven, got one out of there. You can get there by road to Shashana Mountain.

(interjection)
Around this area here that they're talking about, do you remember when you noticed a real decline, like the sheep populations really slipping?

No, cause I never hunted around here. I hunted for Dick. There was always alot of sheep around there. I hear now there's hardly any.

(interjection)
Up in the White River area, the populations up there use to be in abundance? Use to be alot?

Oh yes, lots there. See I seen rams in them two places but, never seen any ewes and lambs. They don't stick round with the rams. The ewes and lambs could have been up Rabbit Creek, I didn't go there. I didn't get very many sheep when I was with Alex Davies, never even got a sheep sign, cause he got in an accident when he was coming up here and broke his tailbone. He couldn't ride a horse very far. He rode him for two days, two short days, never even finished the hunt, it was to far to spot sheep. My brother Harry was horse wrangler then, he rode out and phoned for a plane. He didn't have to ride out.

(interjection)
Who was that? Alex?

Davies.

(interjection)
That's the outfit that Hardy's got now.

He sold it to Burrard. Oh no, this is right I worked for Alex Davies before that. I was working for Burrard that time. Len Burrard. Hunter had to fly out, he didn't want to ride out for another two days. So the trip he made there, he made nothing on twenty-one days. Enough, about it.

Tim Cant:
Thanks Dickie. Pass the mike to Douglas Dickson, right beside you. Okay Doug, here's your chance.

tape counter:007
Douglas Dickson:
To BS? I guided for over thiry years, all over the Yukon. I guided over here in the Big Arm area, with Joe Jacquot. I worked for my uncle up here and I worked for my dad up here. I worked for my uncle for over twenty-five years. I guided for Alex VanBibber, no I didn't guide for Alex VanBibber, that's when I started hunting, with VanBibber. I was just a boy then Champagne, White River. I worked for Johnny Johns down the Rose Lake area. I worked for Alex Davies in the Aishihik area and Joe Jacquot over here. Like White River, when I first went into that area hunting, that was 1953, I was thirteen years old. I could sit on a mountain, between Rabbit Creek and Boulder Creek, where Dickie was talking about, I'd count six hundred(600) sheep. Two deep valleys like. Twenty years later I came back there, could still count six hundred(600) sheep. Alot of times a guy could count three hundred fifty(350) sheep in one day. I hunted, I'd say twenty trips and I'd get a sheep in one day. In all my life I never ever got skunked with a hunter. I'd take hunters out and I'd get game but, White River it's just a cinch, get a sheep in one day. Now, like David he says, the last time I hunted up there was in 1988, he's having trouble getting sheep, the same place. He had trouble sometimes, most the time missing, the hunters missing. But there was still lots of sheep, now David says he has to hunt like hell to get sheep. I hunted over in this area over here, the Big Arm area, between

Raft Creek and Talbot Arms, Talbot Creek, between the two arms, down around Ward Mountain, Glacier Creek and up Tincup Lake. I started hunting in there in the sixties, the early sixties and there was game all over that country, all over. I come back in the late eighties and, I worked for John Osteshek, I rode, hunted from the other end of Tincup Lake in the mountains all the way back to Ward Mountain then all the way back to Big Arm, we was two weeks, just to get one sheep. That's all I seen, one big old sheep, I mean that's alot of miles, alot of mountains. The trouble there is over hunting. You can see that as plain as day. When I worked for Johnny Johns, that country been over hunted too, not only by him. That one year he took thirty-three hunters in there, when I worked for him. There's alot of people from Whitehorse would just fly in, it's forty miles, they'd just pop off anything they wanted. In White River you don't have that problem, you hunt there you'd have to use horses to cross the rivers and such. Later on more people use to go in there. I remember these cops use to come in all the time, there'd be three or four of them, that didn't make no difference on the sheep. Three or four more sheep per year, when you've got that many sheep, it's not going to put a dent in it. The last few years that I worked at White River, I found every year two or three dead sheep, skin on them, not a mark on them, no place. I couldn't figure that out. I've seen coyotes kill sheep not lambs either, full grown sheep. Aubichon seen that too, nineteen huh, in the eighties anyways. I couldn't believe it, me and the hunter sitting right there watching them. I never thought they'd kill a full grown sheep. Yup I use to count three hundred fifty (350) rams in one day. These are not hugh rams, White River country never had hugh rams anyway, their horns broomed off all the time. If you get a forty-one inch, that's big sheep.

Like moose, I remember when we were kids, Kirk was there, Kirk went down the trapline, we was young, our Dad use to take us trapping all the time. In order to get a moose we had to, if we saw a track we had to hunt that son of a gun for a week, to get that moose. There was just no moose, everybody knows that. Later on there was moose all over the country. (?) moose(?) game department. When I was guiding, I recommended all the time, you fill out a guide's report, after or around the 25th of September they should cut the moose season right off, all the hunters are doing is shooting the moose for the horns. You can't use the meat, it's worthless. Anybody around this area, the Native people, they never shoot a moose in the fall time, they're just skin and bones, stinky you can't eat it, the meat is so strong. But you know, they still hunt them, the big game outfitters. All our family, all the time, were in big game hunting, the whole works, uncles, aunts, everyone. They still hunt them, even the animal is worthless. I hunted moose alot of times just take the cape and the horns. It's a hell of a thing to say but I did it.

Caribou, I only hunted for Joe Jacquot's outfit. It was up Talbot Creek, there was sort of an invisible boundary, there's was caribou over in Alex Davies' country we checked, down through this way there was nothing. There might have been some over here, I hardly ever went up in the park. White

River, caribou up there, you had the big caribou all the time. In the last ten years, the migrating caribou come in there, you hardly ever see them anymore.

(interjection)
Douglas when you said you saw, was it in the White River that you noticed that these dead sheep?

Yes.

(interjection)
You aren't saying they were poached, these are just dead animals that you're talking about?

No, they weren't poached. A ewe or a lamb nobody going to poach something like that. I skinned some of these just to see what's the matter with them. I couldn't find a mark on them. No bruising or nothing. I just couldn't figure it out. They were just out there dead, there was no coyote monkeying around there, or wolf or anything.

(interjection)
One other thing you mentioned moose, you said there was, back when you were a kid, would that be in the forties and the fifties it was really hard to find a moose where you were hunting, was there caribou there then in those areas?

Where I'm talking about was our trapline way down the Donjek, there was no caribou there then.

(interjection)
Jimmy Kane talked about down around Dezdeash, when he was a kid that there was a caribou herd down there, there was enough of them that they built caribou fences, to funnel them in, harvest them at certain times of the year. He said back then there was no moose but lots of caribou, and something changed and there was no caribou but lots of moose.

I remember that cause we had to hunt to get a moose. It was not like now, I travel down the White River and I see alot of moose. They're not hiding you know, forty, fifty miles in the bush.

(interjection)
So there is more moose now then when you were a kid.

Alot more. Alot, lot more.

(interjection)
So, what, how do you think, do you think that's not being affected by big game hunting?

These was hardly any big game hunting then, way back in. Like they say there is easy access now, you just fly in or you can go in, in a swamp buggy or something like that. And then, you got roads all over in the country, people can get in easier. There's alot of moose out in the bush, can get a moose the next day out. Nobody hunts that far.

(interjection)
Difficult access.

Hugh Monaghan:
Question to just follow up on that, you mentioned that the area around here that we're talking about where you and others have noticed a decline in sheep. You're saying that the same has happened further west and north in White River country. Have the hunting patterns stayed the same in the White River country over the last few years?

Douglas Dickson:
Yes the hunting in the area stayed the same, I think you can blame it on resident hunters. On the border we had lots of trouble, like Dickie says, we see a bunch of sheep on day, those guys flying in a plane, chase them across the border.

Dickie Dickson:
I watched them do that. In Alaska they shoot everything but the ewes.

Douglas Dickson:
You can sit on the border and look at them. The same mountain but there is no sheep over there. They shoot them steady. It's exactly the same range, it carries on up through there. Just over hunting. This area over here was over hunted. Phil Temple and John Osteshek, they over hunted this area. I was surprised when I come back after twenty-five years later and hunted over there. There was just nothing. There was no problem when Joe Jacquot owned that, there was no problem getting game. Some places are not over hunted but, still there are some game declines, some game there is more. It's hard to figure out. Could be cycles, who knows, it could like someone was talking about there fifty year cycles or twenty years cycles or hundred year cycles.

(Tape 1, Side 2 End)

(Tape 2, Side 1 Start)
tape counter:001
Douglas Dickson:
...the cycle changes to, it's not every seven years. Well, that's about it.

Tim Cant:
Thank you. Mr. Gerald Brown.

Gerald Brown:
Respected Elder?

Tim Cant:
Respected Elder! Must use Grecian Formula, still got no gray hair.

tape counter:006
Gerald Brown:
Good morning everbody. I'll use this map over here it's easier to read, than these ones over here. I'll tell you about when I first started working in 1974, with Rod Hardy and (?) was there too. In 1974 when I first started working with Hardy, there was alot of sheep in here. There was an over abundance of sheep in this area right here, right by Dry Pass. We'd count, I don't know, maybe one hundred(100), one hundred fifty(150) sheep, in just that area alone. And up in here, the Ruby Range, there was not much, we'd count a few bands of forty sheep per day on any one range, from this area here, this range to over here. Up along this Dry Pass area. I guess in 1974, 1975, 1976 the caribou in that general area were, anywhere around seven hundred(700) to one thousand(1,000). I'll show exactly where they rutted. They rutted in this area here every, from October into November they were all in here in this one little area.

(interjection)
Seven hundred to a thousand in one bunch?

Seven hundred to a thousand in one bunch, in 1974 - 75. (?) (?) they'd be in the the Nisling Range, in behind the Nisling Range. That's the general area they rutted ever year, in this area. but, you could also find a bunch of caribou through here. You could find bunches of twenty five(25), thirty(30) all through there, that's in 1974 - 75. (?) (?) when I was working for Hardy, I would fly around in there. We had three main camps, one was right here in the Dry Pass area, that was one main camp, Dry Pass. Another one was up (Onions?) Creek, we had two hunters in each camp. Another main camp was down here at the Long Lake area.

(interjection)
You saw two hundred caribou?

No, I didn't, could see twenty five(25) in a little bunches. But, there was about a thousand(1,000) caribou every fall, in this one area here. In 1985 quit working on the hunts around that time would see 25 to 30+ sheep in a broader range with very few rams. The damage has been done. Champagne/Aishihik is now looking at purchasing the outfit, maybe they can do something to help the game. I recommend that we do something.

[discussion about numbers, sightings on the map??]

THE TAPE STOPPED RECORDING. THESE TRANSCRIPTIONS ARE FROM THE NOTES OF GERALDINE POPE

Harry Smith:
Takes people out on horse trail rides in the Aishihik area. Around Aishihik Village and Tyrell Creek.

During 1980's spent some time between Tyrell and Albert Creeks, it's a fairly big range, could see upwards of eighty(80) rams. Was back this year and saw only fourteen(14) good sized rams. Saw fifty(50) ewes and lambs. Down around Lister Creek range saw sixteen(16) rams, two(2) on the bluffs. In 1994 at Ruby Lake saw seven(7) rams.

Have seen a decline in sheep between 1974 to 1995. The numbers are not there anymore.

Will Jones:
Was the decline just in rams or was there declines in the ewes and lambs also?

Harry Smith:
It's in the whole population. Skookum was guiding this past year and saw only one twelve year old ram.

Barney Smith:
Did you see any dead sheep?

Harry Smith:
No.

Gerald Brown:
Went I was around Boulder Creek, you could count upwards of one hundred(100) on any given day. Ther was forty wolves in one spot in 1988-89, White River area.

Bob Hayes:
Is the range changing out here?

Gerald Brown:
Have no solid idea about that.

Barney Smith:
Mike Hassard didn't hunt certain basin, do other outfitters do the same or do they hunt the whole area?

Joe Johnson:
Some outfitters do that, who they are still have good game in their concession. Down in the Nisling River there are caribou trails. Once saw

forty six(46) sheep that lived in the timber, first time I ever saw this.

In 1984 the outfitter here realized, in the Ward Mountain area, that the game was slowly being depleted and changed from U.S. hunters of sheep and bear to European hunters of moose and other animals with bigger horns.

At Pickhandle Lake there was sheep there prior to the highway. There was a stable population there before now there is none.

In 1965 there was forty(40) or more sheep on the mountains across from Mile 1118.

June 1990 we travelled in the spring with horses, through Brooks Arm up to Mineral Creek (Bridge Creek) and saw only two(2) sheep.

1971 at Ward Mountain we got one(1) ram. Guides that know how to guide bring the hunters up to 100 - 300 yards and that sheep is dead.

Down the Kloo Lake area most sheep were around this side of Killerman Lake in 1960, now talking to Frank Joe, he says there is nothing in there anymore except in small bunches. At Dry Pass and over in the Ruby Lake area, Frank has noticed bands of 10 - 12 sheep in the winter and has seen bunches of around thirty(30) sheep only in the summer.

We'll continue to meet with Band Members to see what we can come with to address wildlife concerns. Denial is a very strong in many people, all it does is prolong what is currently happening. We have two choices at either extreme: either continue as is; or total closure.

Need to look at alternatives. New biologists should spend their first year in the north with a trapper as part of their training.

In nature everytime we people touch something, trying to make it better for our needs, we screw it up.

We are going to have to do something today. One of the outcomes of this meeting will be a news conference on the declining sheep populations.

Mary Jane Johnson:
When the highway was pushed through in the early 1940's, people came into this country and saw the beauty here. They quickly start the process of setting up a National Park Reserve - that took away one half of the KFN Traditional Territory. When I was small my grandparents had to sneak across the highway to get food, in our homeland! During the late 1970's we met with the then Minister of Renewable Resource, Swede Hanson, to come to agreement that recognized our aboriginal rights to hunt and fish. We have to settle this current issue in a non-confrontational manner, otherwise nobody comes out ahead least of all, the animals of the land.

LUNCH BREAK

Tim Cant:
Meeting called back to order.

We will compare information with the biologists present once Joe returns.

Mike Crawshay:
In 1992 saw about 100 sheep at Easter time (where??)

Jean Carey:
1970's wildlife counting started.

1974 the first YTG biologists were hired.

Presently focussed on counts of sheep on the Talbot Creek area. Seven hundred seventy-five(775) sheep in June count.

1985 - nine hundred sixty(960) sheep

1993 - four hundred seventy-five(475) sheep

1995 - five hundred(500) sheep

Lamb Counts

1974	- 144	1985	- 68
1979	- 140	1986	- 49
1980	- 175	1989	- 162
1982	- 76	1992	- 35
1983	- 59	1993	- 62
1984	- 126	1994	- 82
		1995	- 86

The sheep are not counted 2 times a year. There will be deaths of the lambs through the year. 60 out of one hundred will live to the next year.

Lorne Laroche:
Counting yearlings shows how much survive.

Joe Johnson:
How many lambs in a hundred makes for a stable population?

Jean Carey:
For population of 500 sheep you need about 90 lambs to survive.

Hugh Monaghan:
What effects does the rut have on the rams?

Jean Carey:
During the rut season a lot of eight year old rams die because they go into the rut ragged.

Looking at the graph you see sharp changes, the number of lambs coming into the population is what is driving this. Presently there is not enough lambs coming into population to keep it up or above 1,000.

Joe Johnson:
There is not enough lambs because there were not enough rams . There is an imbalance between the many ewes and healthy rutting rams.

Frank Joe:
Did you or YTG ever do a count of sheep in the Ruby Range.

Jean Carey:
In 1974 and 1993.

Frank Joe:
I know that country. In 1993 I was out hunting all through there and no sheep.

END OF WRITTEN TRANSCRIPTION

TAPE 2, SIDE 1 continued

tape counter:048
Jean Carey:
Counted seventy five(75) in this little part here. And, we saw twenty eight rams. Sheep move around so quickly. Alot of times we go count them in the helicopters, but the only way you could be almost sure they haven't run around the corner or over the hill. What all these pictures are up, in point I'd like to make is that when we're looking harvest and how many animals have been shot, we're looking at this part up here. Eight years and older on the rams side, and as you take animals from all of these catergories, it's not going to change the shape of the graph. There'd be fewer animals, obviously if you have ten - ten year olds and you shoot two of them, there'll be just eight. But, it's not going to change the shape of the graph. It's change it a little bit but not the overall shape.

Joe Johnson:
As a biologist, do you get a job description when you go to work for the Territorial Government?

Jean Carey:
Yes.

Joe Johnson:
In your job description, what is it? Is it, on there monitoring sheep, am I

right?

Jean Carey:
And, manage. Yes.

Joe Johnson:
Your monitoring. Is there anything on there, in your job description, which talks about preservation?

Jean Carey:
Conservation.

Joe Johnson:
Conservation is different, preservation? What I'm trying to get to the bottom of this is, I'm trying to find out the role of biologists and responsibility. If a biologist, like yourself, you doing your job when you done a (?), you monitored the sheep. Regardless if you monitor five thousand, five hundred, or five sheep, your still doing your job. They're still healthy, they're still nice and fat, and they're still in good shape, so the sheep are doing fine, even if there are five sheep left. If there are five thousand, they're still doing good, they're doing fine, they're fat and in good health. That's the report you make, to whom ever you make it to, I imagine to Hugh. You would not say the sheep population is dropping, because you have graphs like that, which goes to your supervisor, who's suppose to read it, and in his good judgement, I think it would be the head biologist. Who is the head biologist in the Yukon right now?

Jean Carey:
Doug Larson is the Chief of Wildlife.

Joe Johnson:
It would probably go to him. When something happens like this in the wild, seeing that he read all the reports, graphs like that and the way he is as a chief biologist, a wildlife officier, to make that decision, to say then okay, he'll probably meet with you, you've got no jurisdiction to say 'save some sheep for tomorrow'. (?) (?) stage. Your reports show, in graphs, that the sheep are falling, and you did your job in reporting it true, it up to him to make a judgement, saying 'look this thing doesn't look right in the last ten years, so my judgement is we have to so something about it'. see alot of people are blaming the biologists but I don't think the biologist job to make that to, the wildlife minister, saying'hey, I'm the biologist of the sheep, you got to change the way you do things'. Somebody in there has to do that.

Hugh Monaghan:
I think your dead right Joe. That's perhaps something I could comment on. If you take a look at what we got here. We've got a very good techincal tracking of what's happened to a population. We had a number, back over there, that was nine hundred(900) for a small area. The trend was carrying

along, and then it blipped, and then the alarm bells went off. Then people went out in 1995, to say let's take a good hard look to see if the alarm bells are right or not. So, that was why the 95 survey was done. You've raised some of those alarm bells, some of those bells were raised within the Branch as well. At the same time we are not just doing that, as you know every sheep that is killed by a resident hunter or an outfitter is brought in measured, plugged, photographed and documented very thoroughly. I can tell you one thing that impressed me when I came to the Yukon, was the way in which the sheep are managed. This sort of thing can still happen even in a tight management regime. So, the alarm bells have been sent off by the biologists. 1995 becomes clear, that we got a population problem. These graphs show us what one of the reasons might be. We've have at least seven disastrious calf, or lamb crops in under twenty years. There is any populations that could sustain that, however there may be other things that are going on here to. Could be industrial exploration, could be hunting pressures, it could be a range of things. The problem has been identified. The purpose of this exercise is true. It's nothing to point the finger at the biologists and say there's a problem. Let's say,'gee wheez, we, jointly acknowledge that we got a problem', because half the sheep population we had twenty year ago isn't here. And maybe even twenty years ago isn't really high. So, what can we do under those things that we can control, with the wisdom of this group here, to take that back up. Conclusions that we draw here, don't get determined by me finally. My Minister will determine them. He'll go to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and say 'well, Board what do you think?', Renewable Resource Council in Haines Junction, 'what do you think?' and this working group, 'what do you think?' So it will converge on the on the Board, so if can look at what these problems are that we can manage to, some we can't, we can't control weather as opposed to calf crops, we can control outfits, lamb crops. What can we control and what do we recommend to the Board that we implement, to turn that situation around. So that's the answer to the question you've raised. That's where the accountability lies is with the Board and the Minister and they frankly need our combined advise.

Joe Johnson:
The Board sat in 1995, before that. If the Native people didn't start ringing the bell on caribou, moose and sheep then who. What I'm trying to find out is who's responsibility it would be. I'm trying to track, how, so we don't get into this mess again. So that when these bells go off, we do something about it right away. But, you have biologists, you have Fish and Wildlife, let's forget the Fish and Wildlife Board for now, they're just getting on their feet, they weren't there in '85 or earlier. I don't know where the responsibility is, who rings those bells, who says to the Minister, 'look you got to do something, man, these things got to change'. Who does that? Surely to God, not the biologists. It's got to be the chief wildlife officier. With the information that is coming in, he reads it, he does it with his knowledge, without asking one questions to the biologists, he should be able, himself, to say something has happened on paper (?). That is what I'm trying to establish. Right now, I can't seen to get clear in my mind

who, how the information flows go, on up. To me it's just a monitoring process that they go through and nobody actually looks at the preservation for tomorrow, stating 'let's do something here, something has happened'. I talked that over in my head I don't know how many times, trying to pin point how that information gets to the Minister. The current Minister is just a truck driver, what ever he is, he doesn't know to much about wildlife, then falls back to Wildlife Board to actually give him the facts. That is what I'm trying to establish, so when we set up our own Board here in Burwash, it's not a complicated set-up. As what I said before, we make decisions within three or four days, maybe less, if we have to. We find out and identify the problem and we act on it within a week, somebody is moving in that area. It is not so in a big organization, because then you have a wide range of responsibility and nobody seems to know who's got the responsibility.

Tape 3 Side A Start

Joe Johnson:
Hey, jack up the hunting license and still let them hunt for, I think it is 10 thousand dollars a sheep now. I am not sure I am just guessing. Still jack it up to 25, 30, 40 thousand dollars for one sheep. People will still come. Instead of taking 5 hunters out, you are only taking one hunter. The licenses, you really get your money's worth out of there, charge them one thousand dollars for a sheep license. Or if they get a sheep 30 thousand, 40 thousand bucks. You know people are still going to hunt. If you eliminate all the rest of the people that hasn't got the bucks. Now you get the rich people and that is the dollars you after and that is all you will get. I think Fritz just kind of came in at the wrong time. I think he has the money, I think he is a multimillionaire but I think he came in and took over the problem that was kind of dogging, Mr. Ostashek. And in the whole Ruby Range here, I shouldn't say John Ostashek but the whole Ruby Range area. Fritz's is half the problem, I mean from Silver Creek, where he is at and he owns Ostashek's whole area, even though he says he has partners. It is a very big question mark in that area. When I talk to Fritz's partners, one time they asked me if they bought half of Fritz's outfit, here the guy that is supposed to own 51% asked me that question. What chance he's got at getting his money back in twenty years? That is supposed to be his partner. Not buying half the outfit, not owning 51%. See what I mean. So actually Fritz owns the outfit. He has control of it and every hunting concession, the forefront through the walls, he is a minority. And actually he is the full owner, that is my guess.

Mike Crawshay:
You don't feel that the outfitter quota recommendation is a step towards united, it sort of looks like two problems to me. One, of them is there are situations in the outfitting industry where there can be abuses of the areas by the owners that are sort of getting ready to sell, so they don't care and then subsequently the new owners that buy in and have to pay it off. But, I

am just trying to narrow down the problem here, that I would separate the problem of Fritz Muirmellenof from what I think we are talking about here, just to help us narrow down what we want to deal with. I am not saying ignore it by any means either, but the Fish and Wildlife Management Board isn't ignoring it. There is the outfitter quota recommendation committee has been in existence for what, how many years?

(interjection)
The Quota Committee, three years.

There have been resource councils contacted to make recommendation. So, I am not saying that is not part of the problem but I think if we are going to focus on something, we should focus on the numbers that are up on the board.

Joe Johnson:
I agree, that is how I look at it but because of Fritz's area, I think that is why his name is always popping up but actually he is a part of the problem. He is not all of the problem. I have nothing against the guy, I don't even know him. How can you not like a guy you don't even know. I met him once or twice. He is just doing his thing, he is a regular businessman. But, he just follows the laws, the policies. He is not breaking any laws. The policies are set down by the Government of Yukon. The policies have got to serve, if the policies were different we probably wouldn't be here now. It is not a businessman's fault. It is not his fault, he runs according to the law. And our law is too loose, we have to fix that somehow.

Tim Cant:
Okay, that is an area that the working group concern that I had with the quota system, policy, etc. Is there any other questions regarding what was presented here by Group #2?

Geraldine Pope:
I was just thinking that, that one area came up because just before we broke up into groups, they were talking about Fritz and how many concessions that he had his fingers in and a person had a concern over that and that is why it came up.

Tim Cant:
Okay, so just to stay focussed with what we are doing here today regarding the sheep and the sheep quota system, I guess the working committee could take a look at possibly working with the Quota Committee about the number of sheep that have been taken out of here, the total allowable harvest, etc. So, Bob.

Bob Hayes:
I was in that group and there is a sense that I got that I think is very really that the people here are feeling detached from what goes on here because they have not been involved. I think that comment came from that feeling that they are not involved in any of the outfitting business in any

level. We have heard people talking about the outfitters aren't buying groceries here and to the point that they are not using guides from this area. And I would just like to make the comment that there is a connection it is a detachment, a disconnection that this community has had with the outfitting business that has made it difficult for them to understand and accept what is going on out there. That is my perception of it.

Tim Cant:
Thanks, Bob. I guess just to pull back with this group here developed was the community decision making process and it is always important that the decision making, law making is put back into the community because the community people here have to live with what happens on the land around them. And that is where the sensitivity and that comes up and people's feelings. Okay, looking at the time we should move on with Group #3. Who is doing the presentation, Mary Jane?

Mary Jane Johnson:
We had seven pages of notes that were comments from all the participants. I think I had the toughest group. It was hard to try to bring all of that information and all of that discussion together and come to some kind of very general consensus on what some of the issues were. In group #3, I think the question was, how can we manage the human use in the area? We had different points of view and that, like maybe we should just focus on human use and redefine the area that they are talking about when we are looking at what we are dealing with here. One of the things that the whole group, even though nobody came out and said it was that there is an agreement that there is a problem and a very big concern on the sheep populations on the Ruby and Nisling areas. We tried to look at what a goal could be, what could come out and work towards out of this group and that here. Maybe look at the population, the sheep population, set a goal over so many years to a certain amount of sheep. A very important part of the discussions and that around the table and that was that everybody had different ways of thinking about sheep and all of those ways are valid. All of those ways of looking at sheep are valid, we have to strengthen the current educational and interpretive programs that are in place within this area. One of the participants brought out the amount of interpretation that goes on at Sheep Mountain and how important that is and that took the spread out into the areas around the Duke, Burwash Uplands, Quill Creek, Donjek and then down through this way across the lake. Look at three different zones. Another important point that was brought up is that we do see human activities that have a negative impacts. Now, that is a big thing to look at, everybody could say that what I do is not negative. But, if 200 of us do it, it is going to be negative. If we are doing something that is damaging to animal habitat or damaging something in a natural state already. So that is an important thing to look at. There was discussions on management zones, I didn't really, I am sort of iffy on this because we couldn't come to any kind of a conclusion on what exactly we are trying to come out with and that. But, I have management zones down here with a question mark, and with that a limited hunting season, this is for all users in the area. A primary importance for everybody that

is around this table and all the other user groups that we are represent or even ourselves is that we have to have some kind of a vision that we are working towards. What are we working towards? Out of a meeting like this everybody wants to see something that the work that they have done, the input that they have had, there is some kind of thing accomplished out of it. There is some kind of forward movement on the participation of everybody here, so you have to have action. What are we going to do here? There was discussions by the other groups setting up a committee, I think that idea is generally accepted here. Of having a committee formed of different interest groups that are able to contribute to some process. Maybe some of the processes have been laid out already by Group 2 here. Definitely, we followed up the same thing that Group 1 talked about, was meet again and report the progress back to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board in two or three weeks, maximum three weeks. Each of us making sure that we have some say in the regulatory changes that are happening, that will happen, that are proposed to happen or that we make happen, either as individuals or as a group representative ensure that there is participation at this level of management. Fundamental to all of what we have discussed here, at the table and that is respecting each other and the values that we place on the land, on the animals and ourselves. And respecting that there are going to be differences, there are going to be common grounds and that, right here it is not a very big word, but it makes a world of difference in what we are able to accomplish over the long term and I think that is what we are looking at with this meeting and that here. We are looking at long term effects, and we are looking at long term solutions to ensure that what we have on this land and that here is still on this land when we leave it. And I don't know if you have any questions? I can get long winded too.

Jim Rear:
Number 3 was that in reference to all terrain vehicles?

Mary Jane Johnson:
There was some discussion on A.T.V.'s, on access. Looking at access, mining, ATV, habitat management measures. Looking at the effects of access use but not only limiting it to land base, looking at air access as well. And looking at the limiting factors and trying to deal with them. I think that is what this came out of here. I don't know if that answers your question either?

Jim Rear:
Yes.

Mary Jane Johnson:
Okay, thank you.

Tim Cant:
Okay, thanks Mary Jane for that presentation. We are not going to change the agenda here, Joe has to report to a Leadership Meeting, that he has already missed two days of so he could be here, last night and today and we really

want to thank you Joe for taking the time for being here. So he has to leave, last night when I was driving in here there was a pretty good snowfall and the road might be bad tonight. So he just wants to say a few closing remarks before he leaves, the agenda does carry on after this though.

Joe Johnson:
I would like to thank all the user groups that are here today, representing different user groups. I would like to thank my staff who took part in it, I think they did an excellent job. Thank you Tim for helping us through this workshop. I would like to thank Jean for having her chart up and I think she explained it good, she might of thought I was giving her a hard time but I was looking for information myself. But the bottom line is the sheep, like in our working group we were talking about what we should do is really zero in on the sheep, instead of bringing in ATV's and airplanes, which really side tracks what we are trying to do. But, once we start zeroing in on what we are going to do about it and once we come to a common ground then we start bringing in the other things that are connected to the sheep itself. I think by working together, I think we are going to make headway. I really agree with another meeting in two or three weeks, I guess my staff will appoint somebody in that area among themselves. I am away from my community quite a bit of the time and I really rely heavily on my staff here in Kluane to do a lot of the work here at home. And right now I have to go to Whitehorse and I have to attend another meeting for the next two days. But I would really like to thank the Wildlife department of YTG and the Fish and Wildlife Board, I think that working together because the mind is changing, the way we are doing things are changing. Ten or fifteen years ago, we brought something up like that sort of changes our mind, anyway the next generation is going to have a lot more. I think working together native and non-native people and two separate governments is the key to representing all Yukoners, as a whole. If we don't see eye to eye, let's settle it instead of bashing each other all the time. There is always, if there is a problem, there is always a way to solve the problem, maybe not to my liking and maybe not to other people's liking but there is always common ground that we could reach. When two governments start fighting they could never reach anything, they are always pointing fingers at each other. It is always going to be like that to a certain degree. I think the First Nations and the people in the Yukon has come a long way in the last couple of years, what I see today, I don't see in other parts of Canada is that, we are working together. We don't see eye to eye but the bottomline is, that we are more than other parts of Canada, is the sheep. I think the next generation would do a lot better, all we are doing now is the foundation that they themselves will work on for their own lives and look after their own family. And that is why I get really bad feelings about what am I leaving them and what I have today. What I am enjoying today, is not what my great grandkids are going to have in the future. But the evidence in the past is always pointing towards, when you look at all the evidence and all the human intrusion on the wildlife, not once did the human intrusion come up on top. Hopefully, have a look at this letter and understanding the native way of doing things and understanding the scientific way, they might come out ahead this time. I would like to thank

you again and by supporting each other I think we will make something out of it. Thank you very much.

Tim Cant:
Okay, looking at our agenda, we have covered the summary of recommendations. We were going to get back to two things. Joe talked to me about one, the press conference and he is going to hold off until he gets a print out of what he has here. He may not even talk to the press, he was going to possibly talk with you. Second part was with Michelle Edwards about naming a Chairperson and something about this working group committee and we should identify who is going to sit on the committee and have some names put forward. So we know who to contact next week or the next two weeks, depending on what you decide the next time this group should get back together. So I would like to call on YTG if they could forward a couple of names that would be able to sit on this committee.

Hugh Monaghan:
Yes, I haven't discussed it with him but we will offer Bob Hayes and Bob will be supported by whoever in the organization that he needs. I am sure Jean and others will be helping him but he will be the primary point of contact, as your Regional Biologist.

Tim Cant:
Okay, Bob, do you agree with that.

Bob Hayes:
Okay.

Tim Cant:
Could we just get your number?

Bob Hayes:
634-2247. Could I make a comment about the issue?

Tim Cant:
Sure.

Bob Hayes:
I think what you are looking for is a planning team right away. I think a facilitator is going to be needed until you get a direction and I think you can find later if it works that way. I think that would be the way I would prefer. So that it is really clear that you are looking at everybody on equal footing, in terms of getting the direction set up and the facilitator might be needed to lead it anyways. That would be my recommendation. I saw that in the Fortymile Planning process and it worked really well. The facilitator lead the group and basically to get them to the end. And that is all the facilitator does. He doesn't lead the discussion, just leads to fairness in the end.

Tim Cant:
Thanks Bob. Okay that is YTG. KFN? Mary Jane would you be sitting on this Board?

Mary Jane Johnson:
I think that we will have to be involved with it right, with me, or with you or with Geraldine, on of us anyways.

Tim Cant:
Okay, so for contact for anybody else that needs to contact KFN, can we say for the time being your name?

Mary Jane Johnson:
For the time being.

Tim Cant:
For the time being, interim. And your telephone number is 841-4274. Okay, were going down the list here. Parks, are you going to want to sit at this?

Kevin MacLaughlin:
I think yes, we would be interested whether it would be me or one of the other fellows I am not sure.

Tim Cant:
Kevin, would you be the contact person or would it be your supervisor?

Kevin MacLaughlin:
It would be probably myself or Ray Breneman.

Tim Cant:
What is your telephone number?

Kevin MacLaughlin:
634-7271 or 634-2251 (General Enquiries).

Tim Cant:
Renewable Resource Council - Champagne and Aishihik. Is there a need for you to sit on this? We are talking about an overlap area, that may be of interest to the Resource Council, right.

Mike Crawshay:
Yes, I mean if it fits in because it is an overlapping area, then we would be interested. But, we are going to be kind of tied up in a Renewable Resource Conference up in Old Crow over the next week. All of next week. But if something happens next week, we can maybe talk Daryl Drift into coming up. But the Renewable Resources number is 634-2524 in Haines Junction.

Tim Cant:
Usually in a Working Group like this, I am saying this as a facilitator, usually when you are starting something like this you get a momentum going, you try to keep the continuity going with the people that are attending this workshop. So you don't have to go over a lot of the past information that is sensitive to all the issues.

Mike Crawshay:
No, I understand. The only reason I mentioned that, it that, we are not going to be here next week. But if that is, okay, just either Harry Smith or myself.

Tim Cant:
Conservation Society?

Will Jones:
Either I could come back or Jennifer Ellis. I am not sure, I will talk to Jennifer.

Tim Cant:
What is your number again?

Will Jones:
My number is 668-5678. I would be happy to come back.

Tim Cant:
I know we got Champagne and Aishihik and we got Jim Rear of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. Jim would you be attending the workshop.

Jim Rear:
I am just wondering, are you appointing members to the committee or what?

Tim Cant:
We are trying to get people to sit on this committee?

Jim Rear:
So, you are forming a committee. Yes, I will.

Tim Cant:
What is your number, Jim?

Jim Rear:
633-2163. Yes, I will be all week up in Old Crow too. Boy, that is next week, but I don't think that is too late.

Tim Cant:
It is up to the decision of this committee what they decide? We haven't go there yet. Frank, would you be able to attend on behalf of Champagne and Aishihik with that traditional area that we talked about?

Frank Joe:
I guess.

Tim Cant:
Is that okay with everybody else that Frank attends on behalf of Champagne and Aishihik? Okay, Frank Joe how could we get a hold of you?

Harry Smith:
You could just leave a message at the Band Office, 634-2288.

Tim Cant:
Have we missed any group? Oh, Michelle Edwards would you care to partake in this?

Michelle Edwards:
If you would like a new representation from DIAND, I could but if you don't want one that is fine.

Tim Cant:
How do people feel about it?

Jim Rear:
How many members do we have now?

Tim Cant:
We have 7.

Jim Rear:
Are we going to include the outfitters because they are going to be directly affect by it?

Tim Cant:
Is that the wish of the people?

Hugh Monaghan:
I think that is a very good idea, one that I would support because the sooner they come to the realization that there is a close working relationship here that is required, better involve all the concerned. As an old friend of mine used to say it is better to have the intent leaning out rather than the other way around.

Tim Cant:
I understand the study area we are looking at is Keith and Debbie Carreau. So we will try to contact them.

Mary Jane Johnson:
Yes, I spoke with them on the phone on Tuesday morning and they are on their

way back from Southern Alberta so they couldn't make the meeting today. But they definitely want to partake in the initiative that is happening here. And they asked that all transcripts that we have, they be provided with them. They will provide back a written submission. I think it is very important that we include the outfitters as part of this whole process.

Hugh Monaghan:
In regards to the other question, I would encourage the Federal Government to participate because some of this does hinge on land based activities and then the other way around. I think...of that system would be useful to the ...

Tim Cant:
Okay, what is your telephone number, where we can reach you at your office?

Michelle Edwards:
667-2326.

Tim Cant:
Thanks, Michelle.

Jim Rear:
I just say we should have one consideration of delegates. There should be locals if possible.

Tim Cant:
Okay.

Jim Rear:
I just want someone who is near the subject and involved. It is a local matter.

Tim Cant:
Yes. Okay, thanks Jim. So now we look at as part of the action plan, we have a committee set up and we should try to determine some sort of a date for the next meeting to follow up on. Now, it seems like next week is a bad week for a lot of the people that are going to Old

Crow. We said we want to go around the table two or three weeks would be a comfortable time. The sooner the better. I don't have a calendar. Today is Wednesday and it seems like a lot of people could make it here today and two weeks from today we could probably take a shot at that.

(interjection)
Maybe the group could get together and do this.

Tim Cant:
Oh okay. So we will put this off and it is the responsibility of the group.

One of it's first tasks.

Mary Jane Jim:
One thing that I wanted to ask, Hugh mentioned, how important it was to have a meeting in that two to three week timeframe, to report progress to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. Was the Fish and Wildlife Management Board going to be meeting at any particular time?

Hugh Monaghan:
Jim, what is it the 8th and 9th of December the Board will be meeting?

Jim Rear:
I think it is the 7th, 8th and 9th.

Hugh Monaghan:
Yes, it is that week but I don't have it. Yes it is that week the Board is meeting.

Tim Cant:
So I guess you would almost want to meet the week before so you can pass on the recommendations. At least the week before, a few days.

Hugh Monaghan:
It would be nice to report progress to the Board.

Tim Cant:
The last part of the agenda that we talked about this morning was to develop a process to evaluate results. We talked about how we were going to test this working committee is by how does the Minister recognize the recommendations coming out of this working group. Is that enough for the people here to evaluate the results that group #1 identified. Is there any objections.

Bob Hayes:
What is the product of this committee? What are we going to produce from this meeting? We get transcripts of elders and transcripts of the whole discussion. What are we going to do? That is one evaluation people have to see what it is that we did here today.

Tim Cant:
I would like to thank the respected elders just leaving, Dorothy, Lena and Little Grace. Anyway, Mary Jane maybe we could ask you, Bob has asked what the results are going to be from this meeting. If everybody is going to get the notes from this, the recommendations or minutes?

Mary Jane Johnson:
Ye, we recorded everything and we talked to an individual in Whitehorse that is going to be transcribing the tapes and from that we will have to get all the material that was provided from Jean, yourself and Barney from the maps.

And all that information will be provided to the participants of this group. We had a mailing list going around here and the participants that have their name on the list will get a copy of the transcripts, summary of recommendations. And the people that are of the different interest groups of the later committee meetings. We ask that you share the information with the organization you are representing at the table.

Tim Cant:
Does that answer your concern, Bob?

Bob Hayes:
Yes, I just have to know what it is, if I am going to be collating all of this what product you want. I think I know now. You want a summary of this with the maps and figures and a summary of information. And that is something that we can provide most of it has already been done on the computer.

Tim Cant:
Okay, is there any other issues that need to be addressed here that we didn't cover that is on the agenda that people would like to talk about. I think it would be a good time to ask people to do closing remarks. Hugh.

Hugh Monaghan:
This meeting has been very useful and it has helped focus us. And I think it is a good point to move forward from. There is a lot of work to be done and with the good faith I think we will manage. Thank you.

Jim Rear:
Could we call the meeting together?

Tim Cant:
Before anybody takes off we are going to call the committee together. I think it was a really productive day. For myself, I work with the Band and I see a lot of tensions that built up between the government and band. I have seen some of the frustration that Joe has presented today, the lack of trust. Sometimes it is well founded because of some of the past relationships and it really is a sensitive and touchy issue with a lot of people in this community, for trusting a new process and it is going to take some to work. I think you have to be really positive, constructive and try to be honest and try the best we can. We know bureaucracy and policy can slow everything down and we have our problem at hand we are addressing today and it needs work as soon as possible. But I think we have developed quite a bit today and I want to thank everybody for their participation. I want to thank the elders and Champagne and Aishihik members for coming up here.

Called the meeting to an end.

BREAKAWAY GROUP #1

QUESTION: HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER?

U.F.A.

- R.R.C.'s
- F&W Management Board

Steering Group (YTG, KFN, C/A, C/A RRC, PARKS, YCS/CPAWS, FWMB, DIAND, MINING and OUTFITTERS)

- one issue only sheep/wildlife.

- formation of committee.

  To make recommendation to the Minister:

  - protection measures need to be in place now!

  - deadlines.

  - community based decision making regional interests.

  - community information sessions.

  - continue collecting both traditional and technical information.

  - co-ordinating, monitoring, involving YTG, YFN's and other.

    - beyond the boundaries of the study area (Ruby Range)

  - KFN rep to monitor uses of the land - info collecting.

  - licensed hunters, outfitters, native harvest, poachers share information.

  Cost

  - travel
  - honorarium
  - food

  - Terms of Reference - established by Working Committee
    - traditional knowledge
    - how information is to be used?
    - area

- Action Plan

Time

- meet as needed
- A.S.A.P.

- Consensus decision making

Place

- Burwash

Facilitator

- independent
- resource background

Test

- Minister recognition of working committee - recommendation.

Joint Press Conference

BREAKAWAY GROUP #2:

QUESTION: WHAT CAN EACH OF US DO TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE WILDLIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN?

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure Outfitter quotas are enforced soon for all Big Game. Conservation concern.

2. Make sure the number of animals taken are well below what we think we can take.

3. Look at shutting down 2 of Fritz's investments in the Outfitting business.

4. No connection with the outfitting areas - more local decision-making in the areas.

5. Because rut is sooner than usual should close hunting down in rut season (moose/caribou).

6. Special Management areas be put in place.

7. Respect and use local knowledge more quickly than just scientific knowledge.

8. Protect the wildlife habitat
   - forestry
   - water
   - air
   - refuse (garbage) etc.

9. Respect traditional territories.

10. Deal with access roads and flyways by restricting ATV's/Planes.

11. Keep the line of communication open between First Nations, biologists, RRC's, FWMB and etc.

12. Monitor community harvest - decide on numbers hunted and share meat.

13. Look at the whole environment when decisions are being made.

14. Make By-laws for hunting such as: cow moose/hunt in season. Also incorporate game laws in the Self-Government Agreement.

15. No boat hunting or shooting game in the water.

16. Teach the young respect for wildlife.

17. Respect the corridor.

18. More ground counts utilizing local people (horses, etc.).

19. Control over harvesting in Game Management Zones such as:
    - closure,
    - numbers harvested,
    - registered hunts, and
    - access control and restrictions.

20. More annual trend counts on moose and sheep.

21. Tourism (Wildlife Viewing) - future idea.

22. Need tighter control between First Nations and Governments over land uses, such as:
    - highway building,
    - agricultural leases,
    - forestry uses,
    - gravel pits, and
    - outfitting areas.

23. Utilize KFN Community Conservation Strategy.

24. Use wildlife sustainably - so they are there for the future.

25. Change Mining Legislation to exclude the right for miners to hunt, forest, etc. on their claims.

BREAKAWAY GROUP #3

QUESTION: HOW CAN WE MANAGE THE HUMAN USE IN THE AREA?

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS:

- define area of recommendation
- zoning system (look at Alaska system - 1.5 million people) look around at other regional areas, (Alaska has high wild life populations)
- how do we come up with guidelines
- control, predation, harvest
- common sense
- Fish & Wildlife Board sub-committee recommendation now falling into place
- specific goal = interim target
- vision = regional, local
- factors: accumulated impacts
- continued population counts
- impacts - outfitters; 1st Nation subsistence hunters;
  access - horses, 4 wheelers, aircraft, (ski-doos)
- access - regulated; restricted in certain areas or times of the year
- multi stakeholder interests
- jurisdictional issues
- review of past planning
- need to focus on little things to accomplish anything here
- operating assumption
  target sheep population
  interim
  limiting factors that will affect sheep growth
  * hunting pressures
  * access - mining, not limited to land base
  * habitat management measures
  * ATV - affects the same - harassment

  look at the limiting factors and try to deal with them

- review of what we are looking at when dealing with population dynamics:
  * elsewhere
  * redo our model?
  * redirect

- need to know what all harvests are (new information source)

- traditional territory: only legislated right on settlement lands

- whose got tools to assist in accomplishing goal
  ** again focus on goal

- reporting system of use

- monitoring

- value of land

- one key finding } Ruby Range 1993 southern portion
  greatest decline - greatest human activity

- not using licks and winter range
  90 days of hunting pressures
  small groups of rams constantly moving
  > safe areas
  > change habitat areas or use
  > coyotes increasing; forcing something also
  > seed areas - set aside - basins
  > rotational use of hunting areas

- manage harvesting of land
  > open one section each year
  > close the next

- try relocation of sheep/caribou

- trends in areas of human use within a set area

- Self-government laws applying to specific land areas
  > knowing who uses the land

- establish objectives
  ie. rebuilding sheep populations

- land users - the watch dog of the land
  - curtailing the value of the land
  diverse group of people - to keep the value of the land

- move to bring these diverse groups together

- communicate to survive
- respect for each other's needs, values and uses
- economic development } party to talks
- planning access > habitat protection
- involve ourselves in legislative processes
- prioritize areas of use and methods of use
- multi-use > value added economic ventures
- PAST MANAGEMENT REGIMES NEED NEW WAYS OF LOOKING AT MANAGEMENT COUNCILS
  > ask different questions } different results
  > tinkering with new ways } old ways
- targets
  managing the wildlife or managing human use?
  humans the largest problem
  behavior = alternative ways of behavior
- why has this happened?
  * prevention
- multiple problems
- new vision for wildlife management
- giving up power => decentralization
  resistance
  broader forum
  help keep change process accountable
- solutions will be arrived at from a diversity of opinions
- reversing the burden of prove: developers must prove that the development is not harmful to the land or wildlife (shift ? around)
- education: most education that happens in our schools is development oriented => science
  * voice need for change
- budgets (fiscal year) will reflect if changes are taken seriously
  * monetary opportunities

* HOW DO WE MAKE IT WORK?

- turn around
- short term solution
- long term solution
- bottom line importance
- commitment
- guiding ourselves by our needs
- values & priorities
- integrity of our leadership
  * representing our concerns
- POWER OF TRUTH
- quick reactions

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Sheep population goal over ___ years. => _____.
2. Strengthening current educational/interpretative programs that are currently in place within this area (to increase awareness and intrinsic value of sheep) 3 sheep zones: Sheep Mountain, Donjek-White Rivers and across the lake.
3. Reducing human activities with negative impacts.
4. (Management zones??) (Limit hunting season??).
5. Comprehensive Vision.
6. Action.
7. Meet again to report progress to the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Board in [2 - 3 weeks??].
8. Regulatory changes.
9. Respect of each others' values.

Dall Sheep Observations by Decade in the Kluane Area: Results of a participatory process involving elders, guides, and biologists- November 1995.

Barney Smith, Yukon Renewable Resources
Mary Jane Johnson, Kluane First Nation

Kluane Area Sheep 1920-1940

map #	observer	observation
1	Douglas Dickson	No moose here in winter when he trapped with his father
2	Joe Joe Johnson	Saw groups of 10 to 12, up to 30 here in winter when trapping as a kid. Took sheep with dog team on Dry Pass mountain near Frank Joe's cabin on Kelly Creek.
all over	Grace Chambers	In winter saw bunches of up to 20 sheep, in summer huge bunches of 50 or more.

summary from Nov. 8, 1996 workshop- November 24, 1995 version

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Kluane Area Sheep
1941-1950

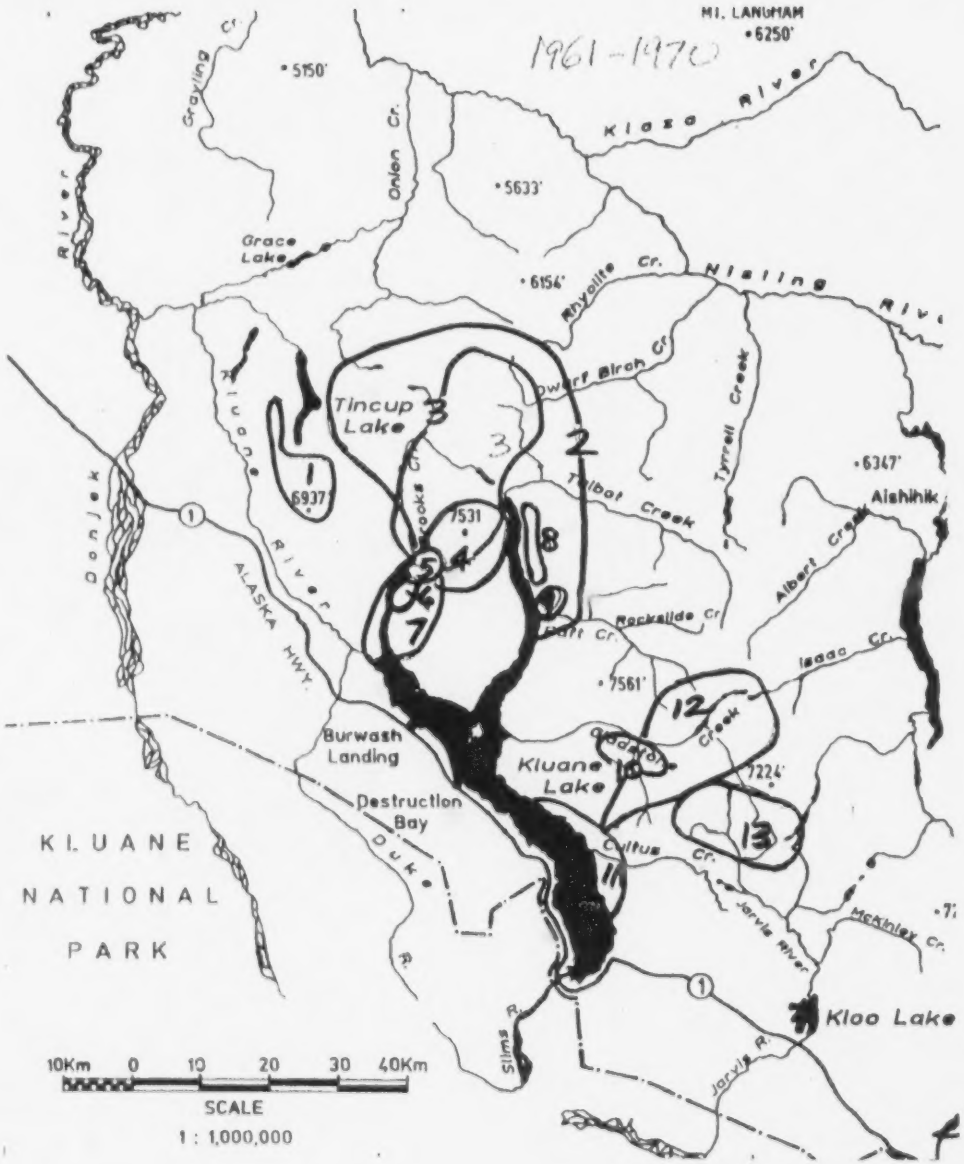
map #	observer	observation
1	Joe Joe Johnson	Small group of sheep in this area wiped out around the time the Alaska Highway was built

summary from Nov. 8, 1996 workshop- November 24, 1995 version

Kluane Area Sheep 1951-1960

map #	observer	observation
1	Grace Chambers	Lots of sheep everywhere when she worked in hunting camps in this area.
2	Joe Joe Johnson	Sheep plentiful on Ward Mountain when he guided for outfitter
3	Joe Joe Johnson	In April would see 400 to 600 wintering here when traveling by on dog team
4	Douglas Dickson	Invisible boundary here for caribou. Never saw them on the other side of Talbot Creek? Season?
5	Joe Joe Johnson	1959 camp with Johnny Muskwa. Lots of rams.
6	Dickie Dickson	Guided for Berard. Saw 2 coyotes kill a lamb with 2 ewes- first time he saw coyotes. Did not see many sheep as hunter broke his tailbone.
off map	Douglas Dickson	1953 guiding hunters around Rabbit Creek off White River saw 600 sheep. Few caribou up in this area.
off map	Joe Joe Johnson	Guiding up in Rabbit Creek bunches up to 300 sheep common. On Baldtop Mtn common to see 50 rams and on Boulder Mtn. common to see 40 rams. Next trip saw more, they had moved across border.
off map	Dickie Dickson	Always lots of sheep in the White River area

summary from Nov. 8, 1996 workshop- November 24, 1995 version



Kluane Area Sheep 1961-1970

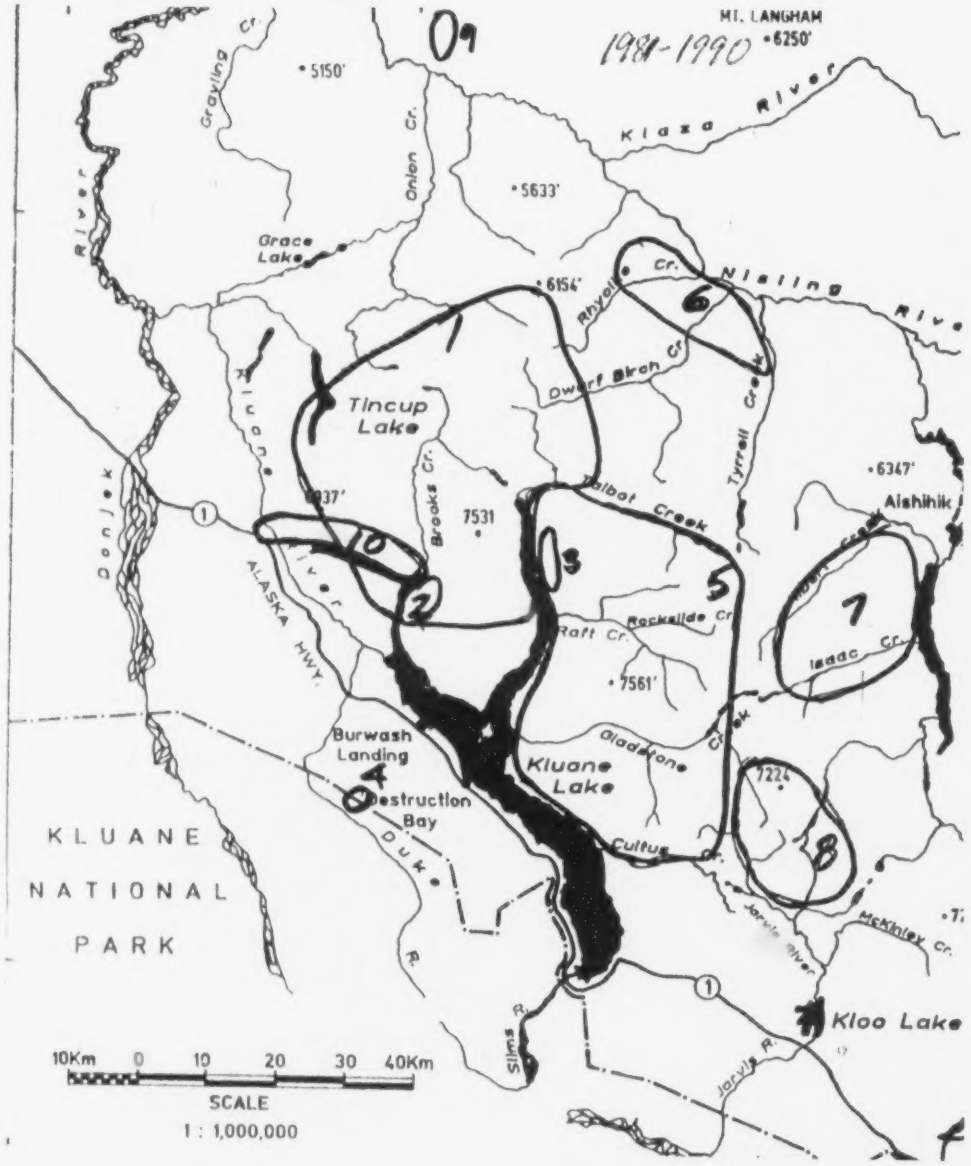
map #	observer	observation
1	Joe Joe Johnson	First week in October 1965 saw 65 rams guiding from Dogpack Lk camp
2	Douglas Dickson	Lots of game all the way through this area
3	Douglas Dickson	Use of this area by outfitter J. Jacquot was increasing in this decade.
4	Dennis Dickson	Head of Bridge Ck. saw 50 -60 sheep with hunters in fall
5	Dickie Dickson	Saw 70 rams here when guiding one year?
6	Grace Chambers	Hunted sheep every year for meat, usually 50-60 in bunch
7	Grace Chambers	Joe Jacquot never hunted here
8	Joe Johnson	Saw 400 to 500 here in April from dogteam.
9.	Joe Joe Johnson	Common to see sheep in early morning on shoreline in August and September near mineral lick
10.	Joe Joe Johnson	Saw 400 caribou near Venus Creek when guiding for Johnny Muskwa
11.	Dickie Dickson	Saw bunches of rams (15 per bunch) here when guiding for J. Muskwa
12.	Joe Joe Johnson	Commonly guided for J. Muskwa in this area. Caribou more common north of lakes, while sheep more common to the south.
13.	Frank Joe ?	Mining started in this area. Fewer caribou seen around Ruby Lake after mining started.

14.	Joe Joe Johnson	Len Berard's guides did most hunting near Dry Pass. Lots of sheep, in groups of 60 to 80.

Kluane Area Sheep 1971-1980

map #	observer	observation
1	Grace Chambers	Still lots of sheep here in 1971
2	Joe Joe Johnson, Frank Joe	Lots of rams here in 1971. Saw 15 rams while guiding hunt here together.
3.	Joe Joe Johnson	400 to 600 sheep seen on these slopes in April, 1972.
4.	Danny Nowlan	Set up sheep traps near lick from ice in spring, 1974?, and kept on till end of the summer. Most ever seen at one time was 50-60, all ewes and lambs, in 2 groups, one of 30 and the other 25-30. Rams never came to salt lick
5.	Manfred Hoefs, YTG	First helicopter count in late June, 1974, counted a total of 775 in this block from Talbot Creek to Cultus Creek. 144 were lambs. In 1979 counted a total of ____ including 140 lambs.
6.	Gerald Brown	25-40 sheep per day seen during guiding fall hunts between 1974 and 1976.
7.	Gerald Brown	Groups of 20-30 caribou seen rutting in this area in October 1974 and 1975 while guiding.
8.	Gerald Brown	Regularly saw 100-150 sheep while guiding 1974-76 in Dry Pass
10.	Gerald Brown	In 1974-75, 700-1000 caribou rutting here in 1 bunch, between Albert and Tyrell Creek.

11.	Gerald Brown?	Large bunches of rams here in 1971 and early 1970's
12.	Grace Chambers or Joe Joe Johnson	Lots of sheep here in 1971. Increasing hunting between the arms (of Kluane Lake) by outfitters Temple and Ostashek.
13.	Joe Joe Johnson	46 sheep seen here while guiding in these rolling hills. Sheep live together in timber. 1971?
14.	Dickie Dickson	15 to 20 sheep in bluffs in August and September.
off map	Douglas Dickson	Between Rabbit and Boulder Creek near the White River could still count 600 sheep while guiding hunters. Never skunked. Important to note that while roads and airplane use increased elsewhere in the range, the White River area was still only accessible by horses.
15	Harry Smith	80 rams on one ridge seen on summer trail ride in 1980



Kluane Area Sheep 1981-1990

map #	observer	observation
1	Douglas Dickson	Guided for 2 weeks in mid 1980's. only saw 1 legal sheep from Ward Mtn to Tincup. Overhunted.
2	Grace Chambers	If you saw sheep and a plane went over, the next day horses and hunters would be there.
3	Joe Joe Johnson	Early April, on snowmachine, saw 100 -200.
4	Joe Joe Johnson	July horsebsack trip saw 50 sheep on Table Mountain.
5	Manfred Hoefs, Norman Barichello, Jean Carey, YTG	Helicopter counts in the Talbot to Cultus Block found 960 in 1985. Lamb counts were 175 in 1980, 76 in 1982, 59 in 1983, 126 in 1984, 68 in 1985, 49 in 1986, 162 in 1989.
6.	?	Still lots of sheep here in late 1980's.
7.	Harry Smith	On summer trail rides saw 20 to 35 caribou in bands, 1983-85. Very few rams but many? ewes and lambs seen north of Isaac Creek. Closer to the Easternmost of the Gladstone lake chain, 20 -30 seen per day.
8.	Gerald Brown	Instead of 100 sheep would only see 50 while guiding. Had to hunt harder and harder. 20 - 35 caribou in bunches near Dry Pass camp. First noticed the declines in sheep n the early 1980's.

9.	Joe Joe Johnson	Saw 43 sheep while guiding. German clients started hunting the Nisling area for moose.
off map	Gerald Brown and Douglas Dickson	Based at camp at Tswashamon lake saw 40 wolves in 1 bunch. year? Saw planes flying driving the sheep back across the border into the Alaska. 1988 still lots of sheep, but getting harder to hunt.
10	Joe Joe Johnson	Saw only 2 sheep on June 1990 ride on trail from Mineral ck to Mile 1118 on Alaska Highway.

Kluane Area Sheep
1991-2000

map #	observer	observation
1	Joe Joe Johnson	No sheep on these mountains
2	various	Grace Chambers noted that she is seeing more sheep from her cabin now in the summer. Dennis Dickson saw no tracks in February and March 1994. Dickie Dickson noted that you do not see any sheep here now.
3	various	Joe Joe Johnson saw 1 sheep from snow machine in late March, 1990, and 4 in early April 1991. Mike Crawshay saw over 100 one Easter weekend in early 1990's.
4	YTG staff and area residents	Late June or early July helicopter counts from Talbot to Cultus Creeks- 475 in 1993, 500 in 1995. Lambs counted: 35 in 1992, 62 in 1993, 82 in 1994, 86 in 1995. Area with greatest reduction in sheep numbers was between Cultus and Gladstone Creeks.
5.	Joe Joe Johnson	Saw 14 sheep and no caribou or caribou tracks on a 4 day ride, Aug. 95.
6.	Harry Smith	12 rams seen on July? horseback trip
7.	Frank Joe	Saw no sheep on July horse trip with YTG habitat crew; sheep used to be abundant in these slopes, now have greatly declined.
8.	Harry Smith	14 rams on July trail ride, summer 1995

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9.	Harry Smith	12-14 rams on July trail ride, summer 1994
10.	?	Rarely see sheep at lick near lake in morning in August or September.
11	Harry Smith	___ Rams seen on July trail rides in 1994 and 1995.
over all	Douglas Dickson	Lots more moose now than in 1940's, but way back from roads and lakes where planes can't land.
off map	Douglas Dickson	Fewer sheep in the White River area now, but can't blame hunters. Saw 2 or 3 dead sheep on the ground in 19??. Skinned out a dead ewe or lamb, no cuts or bruises, cause of death unknown. Saw coyotes kill full grown sheep in 19??. See 200 rams a day while hunting, horn tips always broken.
12	Dickie Dickson	The sheep are not using the slopes that were cut up by the bulldozers in the recent mining exploration on Quill Creek. Could this be due the smell of the drilling mud or lubricants?

Notes on process:

1. Workshop held with about 30 people at Burwash. Twelve people mostly FN elders spoke of their observations and experiences for about 2.5 hours. Each elder spoke from their chair for 10 to 30 minutes.

2. Information captured on maps for each decade, similar to the maps here but enlarged to fit a vertical flipchart page.

3. Barney Smith and Mary Jane Johnson recorded informatio on the maps, as elders spoke, occasionally asking clarification questions. Information also captured on tape recorder.

4. Maps should have shown mountain blocks over a certain elevation range. This would help isolate the information. Someone with intimate familiarity with the land should help record the information to ensure the areas circled are accurate.

5. Most elders appeared to be comfortable providing specific observations in this setting.

6. Guides tend to remember numbers of rams seen....

7. Some indication of how much time was spent in these areas at different times helps in comparing differences in sightings between years.

8. The lack of information from some time periods (war years, recent years), seasons (winter, early summer), and areas (uplands) is interesting. Human use has not been continuous or widespread, and is becoming less continuous, intensive. The summer use is becoming more widespread. Individuals active as guides and trappers, are now active personally hunting and guiding tourists.

9. Information from outside the area was valuable, particularly as trends continued.

10. Surprising there was no observations from Sheep Mtn beside the highway that people drive by so frequently.

11. This system does not allow for good between map comparisons in trends.

12. Many references to Skukum Smith, a guide who was not present who would remember observations for particular time periods.

13. Would have been useful to complete the discussion by summarizing the patterns in each decade and then listing questions that further research should address. Next time it might be better to pick a decade and have people speak of their experiences and observations during this decade.

14. Outfitters' observations are valuable and needed, but may be difficult to include in this summary, or to obtain in this kind of process. Many outfitters with aircraft have accurate records of counts made in certain blocks over time. There was considerable animosity expressed at this meeting toward 1 outfitter, but not toward 3 others. Outfitters are reluctant to share wildlife sighting data with the public, particularly sheep data. The purpose of this activity is not to map ram-rich basins.

13. The transcripts with Kluane First Nation more accurately document people's feeings about the cause of the declines.